

Syria remains odd man out

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — When Jordan and Israel formally end nearly 50 years of hostility next week, the man perhaps most important to expanding Mideast peace won't be there — Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Assad "should look around," Israeli President Ezer Weizman said in occupied Jerusalem. "He may be the last in line" to make peace with Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also said the accord initiated Monday would increase pressure on the Syrians. "I think it will also have repercussions where Syria and the Palestinians are concerned," he said upon his return from Jordan Monday.

But in Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa dismissed the Israel-Jordan treaty as insignificant.

"Regardless of the number of agreements they have signed with the Arabs, all Arabs and Israel realise that peace has not been achieved so far," he said.

He put responsibility for making peace squarely in Israel's court.

"We hope the Israeli government will realise the fact that without achieving peace with Syria and Lebanon, there will be no peace in the region," he said. "This is the reality."

Syria fought Israel in 1948, as well as in 1967, 1973 and during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Syrian state-run newspapers warned that the Jewish state's motives should not be trusted.

The papers said Israel's stalled peace talks with Syria and Lebanon, under effective Syrian control, demonstrated that Israel is still playing for time, seeking to pick off the Arabs one by one to weaken their bargaining positions.

Syria has said repeatedly there must be a comprehensive peace settlement, rather

than the series of bilateral treaties that has long been Israel's strategy.

"If there were any truthful intentions on the part of Israel, the Middle East peace process would not have stumbled on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks," the Tishrin daily said in a front-page editorial.

The Syrian-Israeli talks have been stalled since February, despite U.S. efforts to get them going again.

Peace talks with Syria are snarled on Damascus' demand that Israel relinquish the Golan Heights seized in the 1967 Middle East war. Polls show most Israelis oppose giving up the Golan. Israel has offered a phased and partial withdrawal over several years and wants complete normalisation of relations. Syria rejects the offer.

Tishrin said that after three years, the peace process "is still stuck by Israel's intransigence and alleged security pretenses and fears."

But there was a hint that the Syrian-Israeli talks might be reinvigorated. Israel on Monday lifted the curtain on a secret two-year operation that brought Syrian Jews to the Jewish state via the United States. Ministers lauded the immigration as a sign of Syrian good will.

"Without a doubt this has great significance... also politically, because it is another gesture towards creating a new atmosphere in the Mideast," Immigration Minister Yair Tsaban said.

The Israel-Jordan accord, reached after an all-night session that resolved disputes over water rights and borders, was expected to be ratified quickly by the two countries' legislatures.

The Israeli cabinet approved the draft just hours after Mr. Rabin and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali initialled it on Monday at the Hashemiyeh Palace.

Japan welcomes Jordan-Israel treaty

From Rana Hussein in Tokyo
TOKYO — Japan welcomed the initialing of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel and expressed hope that this step would enhance the peace process between Israel and other countries in the region.

Shigeru Endo, director of the Middle East division at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said:

"We are hoping that the early signing of the peace accord will facilitate the movement of other negotiations taking place with Israel."

Mr. Endo, addressing a group of reporters from the Middle East visiting Japan, added that Monday's signing was an optimistic sign for the Syrian and Lebanese course in the peace process.

"Expectations are growing and moving in the positive manner, and we continue to encourage parties to exert their utmost efforts in their peace process," he added.

Mr. Endo's comments came one day after Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin initialled a draft peace treaty setting out solutions to territorial and water disputes between the two countries.

The accord came nearly three months after the July 25 White House ceremony in

which His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Rabin agreed formally to end a 46-year state of war and signed a non-belligerency pact. Since then, the two countries had been working to resolve differences that stood in the way of a peace treaty.

Mr. Endo also said that Japan would do its best to enhance the peace process.

"We have to think carefully of what we need to do to advance the peace process, particularly in the bilateral negotiations and we will try to contribute as much as we can," said Mr. Endo.

According to Mr. Endo, Japan will invite top-level leaders in an attempt to contribute to the peace process. He confirmed that Mr. Rabin would visit Japan for the first time in a step towards building a better relationship.

"Mr. Rabin's visit to Japan will be intended to discuss the peace process and other bilateral issues and discuss ways to increase cooperation in science and technology," he said.

He also said that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will also visit Japan for similar purposes.

The Japanese official would not release the date of either visit but said they will be "sometime in December."



PROTESTS: Thousands of Palestinians loyal to the Islamic movement Hamas march on the Gaza central jail on Monday, the third day of protests calling for the release of all Hamas prisoners (AFP photo)

Rabbani foes reject peace plan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R)

Opponents of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani have rejected his plan for a traditional assembly to elect his successor and rejected Kabul where the official radio said four people were killed.

Mr. Rabbani and three other Mujahideen group leaders announced an agreement on Saturday to convene the Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, to elect the next president.

The plan rules out any role for the Jumbush-e-Milli Islamic movement of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, a major ally of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in the anti-Rabbani Supreme Coordination Council (SCCIRA).

"Jumbush is part and parcel of SCCIRA and we will not accept its exclusion," a council spokesman told Reuters in the northwestern Pakistan town of Peshawar.

He said SCCIRA would not accept an assembly of selected people or agree to "anything less than an elected shura (council)."

Militias controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar and Gen. Dostum fired 24 rockets on the residential area of Kabul on Monday, killing four people and wounding 17, official Kabul Radio said.

Mr. Rabbani said on Sunday in the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad that he had reached the agreement on convening the grand assembly with Jumbush-e-Milli party leader Abdurrahman Rasul Sayyaf, Harakat-e-Islami leader Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and Hezb-e-Islami (Khalis group) leader Yunus Khalis.

The four men proposed the assembly should be convened on the same lines as one held in 1989 at Rawalpindi in Pakistan which named a rebel government in exile to step up the war against the then



Burhanuddin Rabbani
Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

"How can it succeed now when it failed to work then?" asked SCCIRA spokesman Nawab Salim.

Mr. Rabbani and his allies have proposed that 60 representatives each from nine Mujahideen parties, 30 each from 30 Afghan provinces and some invited Afghans living in Western countries should form the grand assembly of about 1,500 participants.

"This could be one of the ways to find a solution to the Afghan problem," Mr. Rabbani said on Sunday.

He said the leadership council of his allies had decided that no non-Islamic organisation would be allowed to take part in the political process.

Gen. Dostum played an important role in the collapse of then Soviet-backed President Najibullah.

He remained an ally of Mr. Rabbani until he joined forces with Mr. Hekmatyar last January to launch a campaign to oust the president.

"I want to transfer power to a jirga (assembly)," Mr. Rabbani said on Sunday.

He said he was ready to transfer power as soon as an Islamic jirga was formed and convened. "We should also (then) decide the future government."

At least 11,500 people have been killed in the fight for supremacy in Afghanistan since the mujahideen took over from the communists in 1992.

Efforts launched for funds for water projects

The Jerusalem Post

WATER COMMISSIONER Gideon Tsur and former Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz left for Europe Monday to seek funding for two major Israeli/Jordanian water projects.

The proposals envisage the construction of a dam along the Yarmouk River to create a reservoir of fresh water that could be tapped and used by the Jordanians.

The dam is expected to cost some \$100 million and would increase water resources in the area by as much as 70 million cubic metres a year.

During the winter, when the Yarmouk is full, the water simply runs off into the Jordan River, then the Dead Sea. The dam would catch

some of the flood water and store it for year-round use.

The second project is for the establishment of a desalination unit on the northern shores of the Kinneret to produce fresh water from three brine springs.

At the moment, the water from the springs is pumped into a canal which runs from the site around the western shore of the Kinneret and flows into the Jordan south of Kibbutz Deganya Alef.

The project would cost around \$50 million and would be capable of producing 20 million cubic metres of water a year.

Mr. Tsur and Mr. Katz-Oz were to meet in Luxembourg with heads of the World Bank and the European community to try and raise funds for the projects.

Israel expects flights to Jordan in 6 months

The Jerusalem Post

COMMERCIAL flights to Jordan will begin within six months, while charter flights will begin within weeks after a peace treaty is signed, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessner said Monday.

A delegation led by Civil Aviation Authority head Menabem Sharon was to meet with Jordanian representatives on Tuesday in Amman to discuss coordinating flights, he said.

Mr. Kessner said there are still disagreements about the altitude at which Jordanian aircraft would be permitted to fly over Israel, and other issues relating to flying rights and ticket sales still have to be resolved.

However, the two countries have agreed on air traffic control procedures and aerial communications.

The air agreement to be signed will specify that Israeli planes can cross Jordanian airspace, which will cut travel time on flights to Far East by several hours.

Also yesterday, Mr. Kessner told officials of the Naqab development authority that the amount of cargo trucked from the centre of the country and the Dead Sea area to Eilat justifies the building of a rail line to the southern port city, saying such a rail line would "have a significant influence on the economic development of the Middle East."

The main obstacle to building such a line is linking it from the northern approaches of the city to the port, he said.

Life no holiday for UNIKOM soldiers

CAMP KHOR, Kuwait (AP) — Camp Khor has all the makings of an ideal vacation spot — sun, sand and access to a beach on the Gulf.

But life for the 1,100 troops serving here with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) is no holiday.

The men were dispatched to the border after the 1991 Gulf war to serve as a buffer between Iraq and Kuwait and prevent any weapons from being brought again into a 15-kilometre-deep demilitarised zone along the frontier.

"We spend most of our time in trucks or helicopters on patrol," French army Captain Paul Jacquier, 32, of Paris, said Monday. "It's hot and dusty, and it can get pretty boring."

Last week the troops were on alert after Iraq moved units towards the Kuwait border.

U.N. officials said their helicopters and light spotter aircraft never saw the Iraqis, who stopped at least 10 kilometres short of the demilitarised zone and pulled back amid a U.S.-led military buildup in Kuwait.

"We didn't see movement forward, so we didn't have to worry personally," said Malaysian soldier Mahyuddin Abdul Kazzak, 40, of Kuala Lumpur.

The U.N. forces at this camp, just shy of the Iraq-

Kuwait border near the Gulf, says there is little civilian traffic across the border, except for an occasional Palestinian or Iraqi deported by Kuwait, U.N. officials said.

But there have been incidents in the zone, which extends 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait.

Last November, hundreds of Iraqi farmers stormed the border to protest a U.N. commission's decision a year earlier to demarcate the border with their land on the Kuwait side.

The United Nations responded by sending some 775 armed Bangladeshi infantrymen to back up the 250 unarmed observers, who are drawn from 33 different nations.

The observers include 15-man contingents from each of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

These days, some 4,000 stateless Arabs — known as "bedouins" — are camped in Iraq just north of the zone. They were expelled from Kuwait after the Gulf war and want to return home.

U.N. spokesman Vessilio Kostov, a Bulgarian, said Iraqi liaison officials have assured the United Nations that the bedouins would not try to rush the border.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian team to visit Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian delegation is due in Iraq on Saturday to prepare for a visit by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati which has been postponed several times, the minister said in remarks published Tuesday. The delegation will hold talks with Baghdad to "determine the exact date of my trip" to Iraq, Mr. Velayati said, quoted by the Hamshahri newspaper. It will also draw up the future course of discussions between the two neighbours which fought a bitter war from 1980 to 1988. He said the issue of prisoners of war and the problem of visas for the citizens from the two countries would be discussed. Tehran has prepared a list of 32,000 Iranians, both soldiers and civilians, it says have been held prisoners or been missing in Iraq since the end of war. The delegation cancelled a visit to Iran at the last minute in June to protest Baghdad's support for Iran's main armed opposition group. The Iraq-based group was accused of a bomb attack on a holy shrine in Iran in June, which left 26 dead and dozens injured.

Italy wants violence punished in Mideast

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino said on Monday during an official tour of the Middle East that violence in the region had to be dealt with harshly and that extremist groups only sowed seeds of hatred. "We are continuing to witness attempts aimed at derailing the negotiating process through violence and terror," Mr. Martino said in a statement released in Rome. "Tragic examples of that have occurred in the past few days." Mr. Martino said violence had to be "condemned, rejected and blocked" in the firmest way possible, and added that extremist groups should not be allowed to influence the peace process.

Sudan recalls monitors from Uganda border

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has withdrawn its military monitors from the border with Uganda at the request of Kampala, an army spokesman was quoted Tuesday by the government daily Al Engaz Al Watani as saying. Since 1989 Sudan has had military monitors at points along the border after complaints by former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi about alleged Ugandan support for rebels in southern Sudan. Brigadier Mohammad Bashir told the daily that the government was pulling out its monitors at Uganda's request. He said that although Uganda had asked for the monitors to be stationed at the border to disprove Dr. Mahdi's accusations, the monitors "were being restricted in their movements by the same government in a way which did not allow them to carry out their mission as agreed upon by the two sides."

Cypriot leaders seek breakthrough

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus President Glafos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş are to meet in an attempt to end the stalemate over efforts to end the division of the island, the U.N. said Tuesday. The U.N. secretary general's representative in Cyprus, Gustav Feisel, said Mr. Clerides, a Greek-Cypriot, will hold two informal meetings with Mr. Denktaş, leader of the self-styled Turkish republic of northern Cyprus which is recognised only by Ankara. The first meeting late Tuesday in the buffer zone between the Greek and Turkish areas of the island "will be the first of series of very important events" for Cyprus, Mr. Feisel told the local Cyprus News Agency after meeting with Mr. Clerides.

Kuwaiti court to decide on embezzlement case

KUWAIT (AP) — A legal argument which sent an embezzlement case involving a former minister from one court to the other in the past 10 months will be solved in December, a senior judge said Tuesday. Judge Ahmad Mahfouz, head of the criminal court, said he would announce his decision in Dec. 6. The criminal court asked the constitutional court in May to determine the legality of a parliament decision to rescind a law under which former Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah would have been tried by a special panel reserved for government ministers. Sheikh Ali is accused of "making it possible" for four other officials of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. to embezzle up to \$200 million through a scheme of leasing tanks in their own names and then releasing them to the company at inflated prices. Only one other defendant, Hassan Qabazard, is in custody. The rest, a Kuwaiti, a Briton and a Jordanian, fled the country.

Oman Air to begin flights to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Muscat-based Oman Air has been granted temporary rights to operate a weekly flight to Sri Lanka starting Wednesday, aviation officials here said. Civil Aviation Director Upali Malalgoda said Oman Air could operate a service from Muscat to Colombo for one year, during which period both countries will have to work out a new air services agreement.

Ramos holds talks with OIC chief

JEDDAH (AFP) — Philippines President Fidel Ramos met Monday with the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) to discuss the fate of Filipino Muslims, the Saudi news agency SPA reported. Mr. Ramos and Hamid Al Gabid of the OIC considered "negotiations underway between the Philippines government and the Moro National Liberation Front" on political autonomy for Muslims, the agency added. The rebels are supported by the Jeddah-based OIC. Dr. Al Gabid said he was "satisfied by the positive results" of the talks between the Manila government and the rebels. He urged two sides to "eliminate the difficulties holding up the peace process" in order to reach a fair and permanent settlement to the problem of Muslims in the south Philippines.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... La Trece Du Monde
18:30 ... News in French
19:00 ... E-M6
19:10 ... Galactica
20:00 ... News in Arabic
21:10 ... Cuckoo in the Code
22:00 ... News in English
22:20 ... Poldark
23:10 ... The Exile

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 ... Fajr
05:07 ... (Sunrise) Doha
11:21 ... Dhuhur
14:34 ... Asr
17:08 ... Maghreb
18:22 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 62543
Antonian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

77261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624325

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be variable becoming north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 16/24

Aqaba 20/32

Deserts 13/26

Jordan Valley 20/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24 Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446

Dr. Jamil Maraga 776249

Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 783525

Dr. Shabaneh Al Izah 753774

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairook pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 664945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Al Salem pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRAD:

Dr. Ali Shoaqiri 241441

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hisham Hyasit 985440

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 690100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636361

Company RJ Flight Information 08-55201

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-55200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Princess Basma thanks diplomatic corps for success of Um Al Hussein Bazaar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Umm Al Hussein Orphanage, issued a statement in which she thanked the diplomatic corps in Jordan for their efforts in implementing this year's Umm Al Hussein Charity Bazaar.

"We are very grateful for the enormous efforts the diplomats have extended in arranging for and carrying out this highly successful and beneficial event; they have truly gone out of their way to make the bazaar a success as a special tribute to the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf," Princess Basma said.

The bazaar was held at the Al Hussein Sports City on Oct. 10 and included traditional and unique items flown in from 30 countries.

For the first time, the bazaar was accompanied by an international food fair, which added a special touch and gave visitors an opportunity to relax, taste different ethnic specialties and socialise in an international atmosphere.

The bazaar was organised and carried out by a committee of wives of foreign ambassadors to Jordan, who personally arranged all aspects of the event, including the selection of items from each country, the publicity and the display.

Cristina Afridi, wife of Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tareq Afridi, was one of the key persons to arrange this year's bazaar. "This is the fifth year that I participate in this event. Following the meeting held by Her Royal Highness in prepara-

tion for this event, I decided to use my specialisation in marketing and publicity in organising the bazaar," Mrs. Afridi said, adding that the bazaar is a very popular event among the diplomatic community in Jordan, and one they enjoy participating in.

"It is the minimum we can do to honour the dedication of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf and the work of the Umm Al Hussein Orphanage which this year is celebrating its 43rd anniversary," she said.

Amparo Bettini, wife of Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini, was also active in the organising committee for the bazaar.

"This year the bazaar included more countries, and more effort was exerted than last year, therefore we hope that we have in fact raised more funds for the orphanage, which is after all the reason for the bazaar," said Mrs. Bettini.

The orphanage, which currently houses 138 children, relies on the bazaar and donations for its operating costs.

According to Virginia Egan, wife of the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan, the bazaar has become institutionalised in the American embassy. "We have a committee that coordinates our contribution to the bazaar and everyone is very enthusiastic participating in it," she said. "It was especially nice to see the boys from the orphanage who came to the bazaar later in the day, they are such nice boys and I am glad they were able to be there," she said.



Cristina Afridi and Amparo Bettini (left) address the Oct. 10 opening of the Umm Al Hussein Charity Bazaar organised by wives of foreign ambassadors to Jordan (photo by Hagop Toranian)

Mrs. Afridi agreed that the bazaar was a great success this year, but vowed to improve it even further next year. "This year 28 embassies and two consulates participated. We hope to have more embassies and especially more consulates involved next year," she said.

"It would also be nice to have it on a Friday to make it a family day, with more cultural shows, maybe some films and a bigger food fair," said Mrs. Afridi.

FESTIVAL IN ZARQA: Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Tuesday visits Princess Rahma School in Zarqa where she opened a cultural and sports festival, an exhibition of the Hashemite family pictures and an educational activity exhibition. Addressing the festival, Princess Rahma stressed that family planning, inculcation of sacred values, such as cleanliness and cooperation, fostering the spirit of constructive competition, and respect of neighbours can only be achieved through close genuine cooperation among all sectors of people. She pointed out that schools can play a major role in this area.



Visiting commerce team reviews joint venture prospects in tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Tuesday received in his office a visiting delegation from the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo headed by Mohammad Gabr, executive vice president of the chamber.

The main purpose of the group's mission is to establish channels of communication, identify trade and investment opportunities and expand regional commerce, according to a ministry statement.

Mr. Gabr said "the American Chamber of Commerce was initiated in Egypt in 1982 and became the first Amer-

ican chamber of commerce in the Middle East." The organisation is an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The Cairo affiliate has over 600 member companies and individuals representing the largest American business interest group in the Middle East.

It is engaged in promoting growth and enhancing stability through regional business missions, said the statement.

The two sides discussed the possibility of joint projects. The visiting delegates expressed their desire to contribute to setting up joint companies to implement tourism projects. Dr. Adwan said

that the tourism sector has become a main priority, and he stressed that the government is now moving towards privatising this sector.

"The government role is to enact legislation and regulations and provide the proper investment climate for the private sector to invest. The government should pull out of direct investment and leave the private sector to handle it," the minister said.

The meeting was also attended by Hassan Mufleh, secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism, and several ministry officials.

Earlier the delegation met Hamdi Tabba, chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA), and both sides issued a joint statement providing recommendations designed to facilitate trade and economic cooperation.

The statement said that concerned parties in Egypt

and Jordan should remove trade impediments to both countries and open the way for mutual investments.

It recommended that the Egyptian and Jordanian governments facilitate the entry of transport vehicles from either country, the exchange of information on investment between the Egyptian chambers of commerce and the JBA and that both sides coordinate their stand vis-a-vis the coming economic conference in Morocco towards the end of October.

The statement also recommended that American-Egyptian firms be allowed to bid for tenders in Jordan, a practice to be reciprocated by allowing Jordanian-American firms to bid for Egyptian tenders and offer facilities to Jordanian exporters to market their products in the United States.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AIDS prevention seminar starts

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) prevention Tuesday started here. Organised by the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) in cooperation with World Health Organisation (WHO) the symposium seeks to promote awareness about AIDS. Addressing the opening session, BPWC President Hind Abdul Jabbar stressed the important role women can play in educating their families about the dangers of AIDS, and promoting health awareness on how to avoid this disease. Taking part in the symposium are 25 researchers from the Ministry of Health, the faculties of medicine and nursing at the University of Jordan and the BPWC.

Radio Monte Carlo to feature Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Radio Monte Carlo will broadcast special week-long series on Jordan starting Friday, Oct. 21. The programme will include interviews with politicians, businesspersons and representatives of the tourism, economic and cultural sectors. A special team from Radio Monte Carlo last week were in Amman to shoot the series.

Conference on cancer opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Batayneh Tuesday opened a three-day medical conference on cancer by reaffirming the ministry's determination to back public and private efforts to make Al Amal Cancer Centre succeed in its mission.

It is hoped, said the minister, that Al Amal Centre, which is due to open soon, would serve as a regional centre, offering integrated medical services to cancer patients from Jordan and other countries.

Dr. Batayneh, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein at the opening ceremony held at the University of Jordan, said that the health ministry was also proceeding with plans to spread public awareness of the importance of early detection of cancer and to enhance the Nuclear Medicine Centre at Al Bashir Hospital which was established in 1956.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Maraga and head of the conference preparatory committee Nahih Muammar addressed the conference outlining its aims and shedding light on the working papers to be presented.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and right) Tuesday attend the opening of a medical conference on cancer (Petra photo)

They also highlighted Jordanian efforts in the medical fields and the activities of the JMA in supporting national efforts in cancer care.

The meeting is designed to enable participants to exchange expertise in the treatment of cancer and also focus public attention on the need to contribute to the treatment

of cancer patients. Organised by the JMA, the meeting is attended by specialists from the U.S., United Kingdom and other European and Arab states.

Participants will review 150 working papers dealing with cancer prevention, early detection of the disease, and other related topics. Meanwhile, Amman Tues-

day also hosted a two-day conference by the Arab Union of Veterinarians.

Union Secretary General Khalil Ibrahim, who opened the meeting, called for increased cooperation among Arab veterinarians.

Delegates representing Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Sudan and Iraq are taking part in the meeting.

ESCWA seminar recommendations to be implemented by disabled women

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regional seminar on the role of the family in integrating disabled women into the society ended Monday with a consensus of opinion of its successful outcome and a decision to establish a committee of disabled women to implement its recommendations.

"The formation of a committee of disabled women, with the assistance of some experts, to follow up the recommendations and monitor their implementation is very important," said ESCWA Social Affairs Officer of the Social Development Division

Kay Nagata. "Sub-committees should also be created to cater for various categories of disabled women, like the blind and the deaf," Ms. Nagata added.

Hebe Hagrass, one of the working group moderators, said, "we have yet to identify the problems associated with a wider range of disabilities. Another conference, including more disabled participants, is necessary so that these disabilities can be addressed by those affected."

Participation of disabled women at the seminar made for a realistic approach to problems encountered. "The participation of disabled women ensured that the seminar was down to earth and dealt with realities rather than pure theory," said chairperson Maghda Saifi of the American University in Cairo.

Two guidelines were set on which recommendations were made: that the issue of disabled women should be tackled within the overall framework of women's development in the Arab World and that cultural aspects of the ESCWA region should be considered in the process of planning and implementation of activities for disabled women.

The draft recommendations, which met with little contention, urged specific areas of action. Suggestions included that disabled women should be integrated into development projects for all women, able-bodied and disabled alike; that rehabilitation institutions cooperate with the family to ensure maximum integration into society and those institutions should be staffed by suitably qualified Arab women.

The promotion of community-based rehabilitation within the framework of primary health care and income generation was underlined. It was suggested that contributing factors to the occurrence of disability, such as improper birth spacing and kinship marriages, should be avoided.

Marriage counselling services were recommended to co-ordinate with the promotion of public awareness to rid society of its negative attitude towards disabled women's sexuality/marriage.

This conference was the first in the region to concentrate specifically on disabled women's needs. It was also ESCWA's first seminar on this issue since its cultural event held to evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action at the end of the U.N. Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

WHAT'S GOING ON SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

* "José Maria Gallardo" classical guitar recital following a dinner at the Forte Grand Hotel Amman at 8:30 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation).

FILMS

* Drama film entitled "Oedipus" at Goethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m.
* Video film entitled "Young and Innocent" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Concert by the "Black Tulip" band at Samir Rifa'i Auditorium, University of Jordan at 3:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of art by Sanaa Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
* Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).
* The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 644451).
* Exhibition by several Iraqi artists at Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wadi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).
* Exhibition of abstract art by Maha Sa'id Mubaisen at the Royal Cultural Centre.
* Ceramics exhibition by Iraqi artist Salam Nouri at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).
* Exhibition of applied art (flowers, painting on cloths, mirrors and pottery) by Fathiya Al Asl at the University of Jordan.
* Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi' Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.
* Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

Spanish Cultural Week

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Perry seeks cooperation from China's military

BEIJING (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry urged China's rising military leaders Tuesday to buttress growing political stability and booming prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, and changing U.S.-Chinese relations.

In a speech at China's National Defence University, he told nearly 300 young People's Liberation Army (PLA) generals and colonels that budding, cautious military relations were an essential ingredient in U.S.-Chinese political and economic ties.

"China's influence reaches every corner of Asia and, increasingly, the world," Mr. Perry told rows of brown-suited officers.

The Pentagon chief stressed that the PLA could moderate China's future path in the thorny areas of human rights, missile technology transfer and nuclear testing.

"The challenge facing us today is to ensure that this region's stability and prosperity are strengthened for future generations," Mr. Perry said.

He urged China's defence officials to be more forthright about budgets and strategic goals to address the worries of its neighbours.

"I envision a relationship that is led by our defence

officials, but that rests on a solid foundation of officers like you, who will lead our armed forces into the 21st century," he said.

Mr. Perry, accompanied by two U.S. senators and a large delegation, came to China to blunt suspicion and foster relations between the Pentagon and the PLA.

But he has also used the visit to press for changes by China in human rights and other areas such as missile sales to Pakistan and continued Chinese nuclear tests.

On the third day of a four-day visit to begin renewing military ties, served in 1989 after the PLA crushed pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, Mr. Perry was greeted at the military university by warm applause and a band playing America The Beautiful.

Army General Zhu Dunfa praised Mr. Perry for leading a move by the Clinton administration to re-open military ties, although Mr. Perry stressed the United States would not sell arms or transfer military technology to China.

But China's official media played down Mr. Perry's trip. The People's Daily Tuesday devoted only a brief front-page story to his meeting with China's Central

Military Commission vice-chairman, Liu Huaqing. The Xinhua News Agency reported nothing.

In a breakfast meeting Tuesday with U.S. business officials in China, Mr. Perry stressed there was no sentiment in the United States to resume arms trade or military technology transfer with Beijing in the foreseeable future.

But one of the business officials told the breakfast that, arms aside, U.S. policy on trade with China was so "disorganised and fragmented" that Asian, British, French and other firms were edging ahead of U.S. businesses in dealing with the world's most populous nation.

"The sum of all fears for us is that as we muddle along trying to undo a mess that we Americans created, our competitors will merrily press ahead on an uneven playing field that was of our making," said Richard Latham, the president for United Technologies Corp in China.

U.S. and Chinese armed forces are undergoing major cuts in personnel, but Peking's defence spending is believed to be increasingly sharply while U.S. outlays are being cut.

Washington fears the

PLA's modernisation, and each worries about the other's strategic goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Perry wants better understanding and cooperation between the two defence establishments, but he has stressed in meetings this week with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Defence Minister Chi Haotian and other officials that China makes progress in human rights and other areas.

Mr. Perry is the first U.S. defence chief to visit since 1989, when Washington froze a wide range of military ties after Beijing used the PLA to crush the pro-democracy protests with heavy loss of life.

In a modest first step on closer military ties, the two nations signed a memorandum Monday to cooperate in converting defence industries to consumer production.

Mr. Perry said Tuesday he will visit Japan this week after going to South Korea and will brief leaders of those countries on an agreement between the United States and North Korea on Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Mr. Perry will visit with governmental leaders in Seoul Friday and hold talks in Tokyo Saturday before flying home at the end of an around-the-world trip, senior



U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry (right) marks the latest stage in efforts by Washington and Beijing to resume high-level military contacts suspended after the 1989 crackdown on democracy protests in Beijing. Mr. Perry's visit

U.S. defence officials added.

At a news conference in Beijing, Perry declined to reveal details of the agreement reached by U.S. and North Korea negotiators in Geneva for Pyongyang to halt its nuclear arms programme.

"I welcome the agreement," he said. "I want to caution you that this is an

agreement between negotiators. It has not yet been approved in capitals."

"And this is an agreement that before the President (Clinton) signs will be reviewed with our allies that have primary concern with this agreement," Mr. Perry told reporters.

"In particular, I plan to stop in Korea and Japan on

the way home and meet with officials in the Korean and Japanese governments and brief them on the details of this agreement."

"I am not free at this time to discuss the details of the agreement," he added.

Mr. Perry will make a brief stop in the Philippines Wednesday night and Thursday before flying to Seoul.

Norwegian survey finds 51% still opposed to EU membership

OSLO (AFP) — The day after Finland voted in favour of European Union (EU) membership, 51 per cent of Norwegians said they were opposed to their country becoming an EU member, while 31 per cent are in favour, a survey published Tuesday by the Aftenposten newspaper said.

The remainder of those polled were undecided. According to the survey, con-

ducted Monday by the Opinion Institute, opposition to EU membership has risen six percentage points among Norwegians, and the percentage in favour has dropped four points, since the last survey published Saturday on the eve of the Finnish referendum.

Norway will decide on Nov. 28 whether to join the EU at the beginning of 1995. Finland voted for EU mem-

bership Sunday, 57 per cent in favour to 43 per cent against.

Norway's survey also polled people on how they would vote if, after Finland, Sweden also approved EU membership in their referendum Nov. 13. In this case, 48 per cent of Norwegians still preferred to remain outside the union while 41 per cent would vote in favour and 11 per cent remained undecided.

Violence claims 23 lives in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Four more bodies were brought into Karachi hospitals Tuesday, bringing the death toll from rampant religious and ethnic violence over the last two days to 23, police sources said.

The latest outburst of violence continues a long and grisly tradition of ethnic, political and religious tension in the sprawling port city.

Most casualties occurred Monday — five in a commando-style raid by unidentified gunmen on a congregation of Shiite Muslims, police and witnesses said.

Those killed were identified as workers of Tehrik Jaffia Pakistan (TJP), a Shia organisation which has been

at loggerheads with a militant religious group from the majority Sunni Community, which calls itself Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP).

Although the police did not directly accuse the SSP of the attack, militants from the two sides have been involved in fit-for-far attacks throughout the country.

Dozens of people demonstrated publicly here Tuesday to protest at the killing of the TJP workers, burning old tyres, throwing rocks at passing vehicles and setting a bus on fire.

In a separate incident, police found the mutilated bodies on Monday of three men believed to be members of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a party

representing the large Urdu-speaking community here in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province of Sind.

The MQM, headed by its founder Altaf Hussain, who is in self-imposed exile in London, is accused by local Sind speakers of trying to carve out a territorial domain for Mohajirs in the province.

MQM — the second largest and main opposition party in the Sind regional assembly ruled by Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) — has been a principal target of a two-year-old law-and-order campaign spearheaded by the army. Its leaders face charges of representing murder and torture of opponents.

Kohl plans speedy coalition talks

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl planned speedy talks on renewing his reelected coalition, despite a wafer-thin majority, as the opposition Social Democrats organised for a concerted parliamentary assault.

Mr. Kohl held his first talks Monday with the leader of his junior partners, Foreign

Minister Klaus Kinkel of the Free Democrats (FDP), on a schedule for coalition negotiations.

They did not comment after the hour and a half of talks on forming a centre-right pact for a fourth consecutive term.

Both Mr. Kohl and Mr. Kinkel pledged earlier to

seek a rapid coalition agreement rather than repeat drawn-out negotiations after the previous elections in December 1990 that paralysed Bonn during the outbreak of the Gulf war against Iraq.

Social Democrat (SPD) Chairman Rudolf Scharping was due to be appointed leader of the party's parliament bloc as early as Tuesday to head what he has pledged will be a determined attack on Mr. Kohl's weakened government.

"I would bet on Kohl being chancellor for another two years rather than four," said Mr. Scharping, who has quit post as Rhineland-Palatinate state premier to come to Bonn.

His SPD rose almost three points from the last election in 1990 to 36.4 per cent, while Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their liberal FDP allies fell more than six points to a combined 48.4 per cent.

That left the centre-right coalition with only a 10-seat edge in parliament over the combined opposition of SPD, ecologist Greens and reformed East German Communists, down from a 124-seat majority in the previous legislature.

President Bill Clinton Monday telephoned Mr. Kohl to congratulate him on his election victory, saying: "I was so happy for you."

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Meyers told reporters Mr. Clinton, who is friendly with Mr. Kohl, telephoned from his plane as he flew to a speaking engagement in Albuquerque, N.M.

CDU and FDP leaders carefully avoided making public demands that could rattle the government talks.

Gorbachev warns of nuclear danger in free world

LOS ANGELES (R) — The world is facing a greater danger from nuclear weapons now than during the cold war, Mikhail Gorbachev, the last president of the former Soviet Union, said Monday.

Speaking at the environmental media awards presentation in Los Angeles, Mr. Gorbachev called for immediate international programme designed specifically to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

"The cold war is over. But, the nuclear genie, which was let out of the bottle, is still at large," he said in his new capacity as president of Green Cross International, a worldwide environmental group.

Mr. Gorbachev took a swipe at the failure of Boris Yeltsin's government to stop illegal exporting of nuclear components out of Russia.

"In some ways it has even become more dangerous because of lax control over nuclear and fissile materials and the spread of modern technologies for producing the weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev told his Hollywood Entertainment Industry audience that Russians and Americans should be at the forefront of diffusing the nuclear threat.

"While we were thinking how to multiply the weapons of nuclear overkill, we acted like barbarians digging a common grave," he said.

He called for the development of a universally binding, international code of environmental ethics to ensure the safety of the Earth's ecosystem.

"There must be a kind of 10 commandments for the environment, something that no one would be allowed to violate," he said.

Sri Lankan premier: Army had too much power

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has said the island's 100,000-strong army has too much power and some officers might try to sabotage her government peace talks with Tamil rebels.

The army, she told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), "has so much authority and freedom to run around as they want that I can safely think that in certain cases some people may even try to sabotage the peace process."

"I am not saying it happened here... we have to find out. But I am not ruling that out," she said in the interview broadcast Monday.

The prime minister said one problem with the previous government was that it lacked sufficient control over the military.

"Their attitude was that we cannot do anything on our own (regarding peace talks). We have to get permission from them — which our government is not willing

to tolerate at any point," she declared.

The prime minister's remarks could spark dissension in armed forces. "I am certain a lot of officers in the army are going to be offended by the lady's comments," a senior army officer involved in anti-rebel operations said.

Under Sri Lanka's constitution, Mrs. Kumaratunga has little, if any, control over the country's armed forces.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, whose United National Party is in the opposition, is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and the police. He also has retained the defence portfolio, despite his party's loss of power to the New People's Alliance in the August general election.

A government team held talks with the Tamil rebels in their northern Jaffna stronghold last week and are due to resume discussions next Monday.

Both sides expressed optimism at the first round and said they would like to

enu ree 11-year conflict, which has cost more than 30,000 lives since 1983.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are seeking a separate state in the north and east for the Sri Lanka's 2.5-million minority Tamil community.

The army has expressed concern about a possible repetition of what happened during the last peace talks, in 1990, when government forces had to withdraw from territory, only to retake it later at great cost.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said the government was prepared to consider a ceasefire but would not allow either the army or the rebels to gain unfairly, as in 1990, in the event of a ceasefire.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte has assured the troops in the field the government will keep them informed of every move in the peace process.

He has said that if the peace talks fail, the army would be given the go-ahead to crush the Tamil rebels. Tamil rebels released nine

Sinhalese fishermen in northern Sri Lanka Tuesday, reciprocating the government's freeing of 18 guerrillas after last week's peace talks.

Government and rebel negotiators will meet in Jaffna again on Oct. 24 to continue the talks to end the ethnic war.

The Sinhalese prisoners were handed over by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the rebel stronghold, Jaffna, 300 kilometres north of Colombo, said an ICRC official on condition of anonymity.

Dozens of Sinhalese fishermen have disappeared in the war-ravaged north and east during the past three years, and the military says they are being held captive by the rebels.

"The guerrillas admit that they have only 19 policemen and 35 soldiers in their custody. But the military believes that the rebels had captured hundreds of policemen and soldiers when they over-ran several military bases and police stations in 1990.

Mother searches Hong Kong streets for missing model

HONG KONG (R) — An Australian teenage model disappeared from Hong Kong airport and has not been seen since Sunday, police said Tuesday as her mother walked the city's streets, asking passers by if they had seen her daughter.

Jessica Lolita Ehrenburg, 14, disappeared Sunday as she was about to board a plane to Australia, ignoring her mother's fears she might have been kidnapped. The tall, blonde from Byron Bay, outside Sydney, was on her way home after modelling assignments in Paris and Milan.

Australian consular officials declined to comment, but a source close to the investigation said "there is a good chance there was a boyfriend involved." Police said Jessica had no money with her and was believed to have made a telephone call just before she disappeared. A police spokesman said there were no clues as to the girl's whereabouts.

Beijing abandons dream of dogless city

BEIJING (R) — China's capital has abandoned its goal of being the world's only canine-free city, but under a tough draft law Beijing's notorious "dog-beating squads" will probably not be brought to heel. City fathers, accepting the failure of Socialist-inspired campaigns to ban dogs, have proposed a more realistic scheme that nonetheless includes stiff licensing fees and draconian restrictions. The official China Daily said Tuesday that a yearly dog licence would cost "a staggering 6,000 yuan" — about \$700 or triple the country's average annual urban income. News accounts did not say how the law would be upheld, raising the prospect that enforcement may be left to notorious bands of state-sanctioned vigilantes who for decades have beaten dogs to death in front of their masters. The draft law is strictest in eight inner-city districts, where only the smallest breeds will be tolerated and only a few pet shops and veterinary clinics allowed to open. It will curtail the style of fashion-conscious Beijingers, especially newly wealthy young women who covet being seen cuddling furry lapdogs. "Dog owners cannot bring their pets into markets, shops, hotels, parks, schools or other public places," the draft says. "And dogs are not allowed to use elevators or public transport." What's more, dogs may be taken outdoors only at night — between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. They must be walked on a leash by an adult and their excrement must be scooped up immediately.

The precautions include having a Thai doctor check passengers boarding THAI flights in India, and spraying the passenger cabin and cargo holds with disinfectant, the statement said.

Thai initially suspended flights to India, then resumed partial service but did not accept passengers from that country.

The war, which started when Angola won independence from Portugal in 1975, resumed with unprecedented ferocity, killing tens of thousands of civilians and displacing about a third of the 10 million population.

Several political analysts in Luanda saw potential problems in implementing a new accord, although conceding that this time it could be different.

The time for the initialing of the agreement is before us. I can't say the exact date but it is a matter of days and not weeks.

He said this agreement was more watertight than the ill-fated 1991 accord, signed in the Lisbon suburb of Bicesse, which broke down after UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rejected its defeat in September 1992 elections and returned to the bush.

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5 attempt jail break from death row

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Four U.S. prisoners on death row at the Indiana State Prison escaped from their cells Monday but were captured after exchanging shots with a guard, officials said. A fifth condemned prisoner was stopped before he could leave his cell but police had to use tear gas to subdue him and in the process one officer suffered a minor injury. Indiana prisons spokeswoman Pam Patterson said the incident began early Monday morning at the prison in Michigan City when four men cut through bars and escaped through a window. A tower guard saw them entering a recreation area and ordered them to stop, at which time one of the four fired three shots from a home-made gun, she said. The guard fired a warning shot and the four surrendered. A fifth death row inmate who had not left his cell but who was armed with a knife refused to surrender and was tear-gassed.

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A file picture dated 1977 shows Dagmar Koehl on the catwalk during the Miss Germany '77 contest. The former Miss Germany received a mandate as member of parliament for the Christian Social Union (CSU) in the German Bundestag during Sunday's legislative elections (AFP photo)



Picture shows the headlines of the national morning newspapers on the day after the Sunday Times published extracts from an authorised biography on Prince Charles by Jonathan Dimbleby. In the book the Prince claims to have

been pressured into his marriage to Princess Diana by his father, the Duke of Edinburgh, and that he in fact never loved her (AFP photo)

Palace: Charles, Diana have no divorce plans

LONDON (R) — Buckingham Palace said Tuesday that Prince Charles and Princess Diana had no plans to divorce.

Reacting to press reports of a divorce settlement, a spokesman said: "as was stated quite clearly when their separation was announced in December 1992, the prince and princess had no plans to divorce. That remains the position."

Lawyers for the heir to the throne and his estranged wife also put out a statement saying there was "no truth" in reports of a pending divorce agreement involving the couple.

The French magazine *Voici* said the royal couple had agreed a \$24.5 million divorce settlement for next year.

The prince's lawyer, Henry Boyd-Carpenter, of Farrer Co. and Lord Mishoon of Mishoon De Reya, the princess's legal adviser, said in a joint statement that there was "no truth" to reports of the royal couple divorcing next year.

They said no consideration was being given to legal ac-

tion to prevent further publication of the reports.

In the latest report on Britain's crisis-hit monarchy, the French magazine *Voici* said Prince Charles and Princess Diana, whose marriage broke down in December 1992, had agreed a cash settlement on divorce next year.

It quoted excerpts from British royal author Andrew Morton's book, *Diana: Her New Life*, to be published next month.

The couple, who were married in 1981 but bitterly separated 11 years and two sons later, are expected to put an amicable end to their marriage in March, according to the magazine.

As part of the divorce settlement, Princess Diana also would get a London residence with an estimated value of 50 million francs (\$9.6 million) and a country house in Wales or in France.

She would have to give up most of her jewels under the divorce terms and would divide wedding presents with Prince Charles.

The number of those presents was greatly diminished in December 1992 when the

couple, on the eve of their separation, organised a bonfire at their residence in Highgrove to burn all the wedding gifts neither of them wanted, the book said.

Mr. Morton's book was not due to appear until Nov. 15 and a London newspaper accused *Voici* of having stolen the manuscript.

Voici spokesman Marc Rassar flatly denied it had been stolen, though he acknowledged that much of the information his magazine published came from the book and that one of its journalists had been arrested in a police "sting" operation after attempting to sell the manuscript to another publication.

"There is no question of a theft," Mr. Rassar said. "This is a scoop, and there is nothing unusual about that."

He said the magazine's information had come from its own staff as well as from the Morton book, which was obtained through "journalistic means."

Journalist Roberto Alvarez was arrested by French police in a Paris hotel Monday after offering the Morton manu-

script for sale, Mr. Rassar said. "This is the action of an individual and not of the publishers, and we are today looking at the possibility of seeking professional sanctions against this man," he said.

Prince Charles wanted to delay the divorce until after the death of his grandmother Elizabeth, the queen mother, fearing it would cause her considerable pain. But in the end, he agreed to an earlier date, according to the magazine.

The magazine said Mr. Morton's book depicts both Prince Charles and Princess Diana as preoccupied with their image and in constant fear of being spied on by one another. It said they were in constant battle with each other since their 1992 separation, with the future care of the children the main topic of contention.

Princess Diana at one point threatened to snatch the children and flee to Australia because she was aware that under the law she had no legal right to them, according to *Voici*.

Russian press shocked by assassination of reporter

MOSCOW (R) — Russian journalists, shocked by the murder of a Moscow reporter investigating military corruption, demanded swift government action Tuesday to halt "a wave of terror" against news media.

Dmitry Kholodov, who had been investigating mafia ties with the military, was torn to pieces Monday when a briefcase he thought contained important documents exploded as he opened it in the newsroom of popular Moscow's *Komsomolskiy*.

"Journalists are being sub-

jected to political and economic pressure including terror by criminal structures," said a statement by Russia's union of journalists.

It added that those responsible for the murder were "not hooligans but criminal forces in politics and the economy who are opposed to the freedom of speech."

Mr. Kholodov died in an ambulance taking him to hospital. He told his colleagues that the briefcase had been passed to him by his source in the Counter-Intelligence Ser-

vice (FSK).

"We have the right to write and they have the right to kill us because of what we write," Alla Yaroshinskaya told a news conference. She is a journalist and a member of President Boris Yeltsin's advisory Presidential Council.

"Honest and independent journalists are being hunted down," she added.

A joint statement by Russian and Moscow Journalists' Unions demanded that the president, the government and law-enforcing agencies

take swift action against the killers.

Documents released at the news conference said five journalists were killed and 26 injured this year alone and not a single case had been resolved by investigators.

"The lawlessness of criminal structures, which rule the country, has reached a critical point. Authorities either cannot or do not want to take the criminal situation in the country under control," said the statement by the Moscow union.

Balladur seeks presidential ceasefire in cabinet

PARIS (Agencies) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur told senior ministers Tuesday to stop squabbling in public and prevent rivalry over next year's French presidential election from destroying his government's unity.

Aides said Mr. Balladur, determined to restore cabinet discipline and appeal for calm, was asking his conservative coalition to wait until January before starting to campaign for the two-stage election on April 23 and May 7.

Silencing cabinet supporters of Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac as far as possible is a key part of the Balladur camp's own presidential strategy, which calls for the prime minister to be chosen as the coalition's sole candidate in January.

Mr. Balladur began with a private meeting with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, the top Chirac supporter within the cabinet. Mr. Juppe last week clashed publicly over policy with both Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Defence Minister Francois Leotard.

Mr. Pasqua and Mr. Leotard arrived at the prime minister's office later and the four discussed ways of ensuring the government functioned smoothly on foreign and security policy in the run-up to the presidential poll, aides said.

Afterwards, Mr. Juppe told reporters he was "dumbfounded by the deterioration of the political climate" in the last few days but denied having breached cabinet solidarity himself.

"It seems to me urgent for the coalition and the government to get a grip on themselves. We must calm this sort of political madness that

has taken hold of the country," he said.

Last week, Mr. Juppe blamed the Interior Ministry for refusing any more than a 24-hour French visa to exiled Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasrin and bluntly rejected Mr. Pasqua's proposal for primary elections to choose a single conservative candidate.

In return, Mr. Pasqua all but demanded that Mr. Juppe leave the government, saying his membership of a political support committee for Mr. Chirac was incompatible with cabinet service.

Mr. Leotard, a key Balladur supporter, twice upstaged Mr. Juppe on foreign policy by questioning U.S. motives in rushing troops to Kuwait — asserting it had more to do with domestic American politics than any real Iraqi threat — and suggesting that Muslim fundamentalists would seize power in Algeria.

Cacophony in the coalition and corruption scandals that have forced two ministers to resign in three months, have begun to undermine Mr. Balladur's reputation for calm, sound government, public opinion polls show.

As a result, outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors, who is still absent from the French domestic political fray, has drawn level with Mr. Balladur in the presidential race, despite the unpopularity of his Socialist Party.

Transport Minister Bernard Bosson, another Balladur ally, said that unless the right stopped bickering, it would lose the third presidential election in a row.

Aides said Mr. Balladur

had also invited Mr. Chirac and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, as leaders of the Gaullist RPR and centre-right UDF parties, to meet him to discuss a political ceasefire until January.

Neither had replied so far.

The prime minister's aides said that if they refused to give such a commitment, or gave it and then broke it, Mr. Balladur would be in a position to "call the French people as witnesses" to their bad faith.

However coalition sources said it was unlikely that either party leader would agree to attend such a meeting.

In an apparent sign of the worsening political climate, Mr. Balladur called off a regular weekly coalition lunch which neither Mr. Chirac nor Mr. Giscard d'Estaing had attended for some time.

French people increasingly suspect their political leaders of corruption, according to a poll published Tuesday amid government attempts to play down the latest wave of scandals.

Nearly two-thirds of those asked — 58 per cent — said they thought French politicians are "more or less corrupt," while only 34 per cent said they were "more or less honest."

The figures compare with 52 per cent who were suspicious of politicians and 38 per cent who supported them in the previous poll carried out by the Sofres Polling Institute.

The survey was carried out amid a wave of scandals which culminated in the resignation of one minister and the detention of another ex-minister on corruption charges.

U.N. seeks return of medicines hijacked by Bosnian Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations Tuesday sought the return of five truckloads of medicines which Bosnian Serb forces hijacked at gunpoint at a Sarajevo checkpoint.

U.N. officials said the commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, General Ratko Mladic, had promised the cargo would be handed back following a strong protest from the U.N. side.

A Bosnian Serb spokesman denied that the medicines had been hijacked. He said they were temporarily confiscated because they lacked authorisation.

Colleen Murphy, a senior United Nations official, met Bosnian Serb authorities in their "capital" of Pale, outside Sarajevo to try to resolve the situation.

The medicines were seized by about 10 Bosnian Serb soldiers, some armed with shoulder-launched anti-tank missiles, while the convoy was being held up Monday on its way from the U.N.-controlled airport to a city-centre warehouse.

U.N. drivers were forced at gunpoint to take the convoy to a Serb-held suburb of Sarajevo, where it was unloaded, before they were allowed to return to the city.

The United Nations could not say why the medicines had been taken, as some of the cargo was in any case destined for the Bosnian Serbs.

"Apparently they decided to take everything for some reason," said Kris Janowski of the U.N. High Commis-

sioner for Refugees.

"We still hope to recover the cargo. We had a vague promise from General Mladic that he would make sure that the cargo is returned, but we will just have to see."

Mr. Janowski added: "Even if they are not quite happy with the share they are getting it's certainly not the way to do it, hijack a convoy at gunpoint."

The convoy was made up of U.N. vehicles carrying dialysis equipment, hygiene kits and other medical supplies donated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

U.N. officials defended the conduct of French soldiers who were on duty at the checkpoint where the incident took place but were unable to prevent the theft.

U.N. military spokesman Colonel Tim Spicer said there were a lot of people and vehicles at the checkpoint and any attempt to use force to stop the hijack would have been ill-advised.

"It's the last place you want to start some sort of shooting incident or fire-fight," Col. Spicer said. "It would be absolutely crazy."

The Bosnian Serbs have in recent weeks stepped up their harassment of the United Nations aid effort. This followed a decision by their leader in Belgrade, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, to impose a blockade on the Bosnian Serbs after they rejected the latest international peace plan.

In return, Mr. Milosevic has been rewarded by the

relaxation of sanctions against his own country.

In Bosnia, Serbs have blocked and held up aid convoys and repeatedly forced the closure of Sarajevo Airport, the main aid gateway for the city's 380,000 inhabitants, by threatening to shoot aid aircraft.

Col. Spicer said 25 U.N. military resupply convoys had been refused permission to move Tuesday by the Serbs.

On the war front, Col. Spicer said troops of the Muslim-led government mounted attacks in the Gradacac area of northern Bosnia and near the southwest city of Konjic.

Col. Spicer also said U.N. observers in the northwest city of Bihac had reported that six civilians were killed and 10 wounded in apparent Serb shelling of a railway station.

The Bosnian war began in April 1992 with violent Bosnian Serb protest of a decision by the republic's Muslims and Croats to break Bosnia away from Yugoslavia.

Six civilians were killed and 10 wounded when Bosnian Serb forces shelled the northwestern Bosnian town of Bihac, a U.N.-declared "safe haven," the spokesman for French units based in the region said.

The Bosnian Serbs fired two shells Monday evening into the centre of Bihac, one of the six U.N. security zones in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said the spokesman. Major Jean-Francois Philippe, contacted by telephone from Zagreb,

On Monday, U.N. military police counted 162 artillery exchanges around Bihac and on the strategically important Grabez Plateau south of Bihac, according to the U.N. Protection Force press office here.

The area forms the front between the warring Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian government troops.

A United Nations aid convoy came under fire near the eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde Tuesday and one driver was believed to have been killed and another wounded, Col. Spicer said.

Col. Spicer said the casualty reports were still not confirmed and he could not say who fired at the convoy operated by the UNHCR.

Gorazde is a Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, fulfilling a congressional mandate, will submit to the U.N. Security Council a long-threatened proposal to lift the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims, but U.S. officials said Monday it will not take effect until spring.

"We are working on a draft resolution to lift the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina," State Department deputy spokeswoman Christine Shelly told reporters.

"In accordance with the president's letter to Congress, we will submit our draft resolution to the (U.N.) Council within the next two weeks," she said.

Bad news, mix-up plague British queen in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Queen Elizabeth II scoured Moscow's near-deserted Red Square for Russians Tuesday but sides said neither local chaos nor royal woes piling up at home could blight her historic visit of reconciliation to Russia.

They branded the trip a success so far but lamented the embarrassing mix-up which saw the queen being deposited on the vast cobbled square devoid of hoped-for well-wishers.

"President (Boris) Yeltsin decided he wanted to show the queen more of Red Square than originally intended, so security were told to keep it clear of people," an angered British embassy official said.

"This is just like the old days. We can't get anywhere near," one royal fan, civil servant Anatoly Ryzhkov, said in a reference to Soviet times when only selected groups — but big ones — were marched out to greet dignitaries.

A couple of hundred people — a drop in the Red Square ocean — were hastily allowed up to barriers to talk to the 68-year-old queen, who wore a royal blue coat and bat as Mr. Yeltsin showed her and husband Prince Philip around.

The party carefully avoided getting too close to the tomb holding mummified Vladimir Lenin, the Soviet leader who ordered the murder of Tsar Nicholas and his family in 1918.

The four-day visit, the first



Workers hastily repair the asphalt in front of Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in preparation for the visit of Queen Elizabeth (AFP photo)

by any British monarch, is a signal the queen has forgiven Russia for killing her relative. But it has been dogged by startling revelations about her son and heir, Prince Charles, and his estranged wife, Princess Diana, who both seem to lack the queen's stiff upper lip.

The Queen brought grand royal spectacle back to Moscow for the first time since the 1917 revolution.

The sight of a monarch smiling from the tsar's box at the 19th century Bolshoi Theatre, her tiara and jewels sparkling, was curious in a city recovering from its drab Soviet past.

Early Tuesday the queen,

with Mr. Yeltsin, laid a wreath to World War II victims to mark their two countries' short-lived wartime alliance, before touring the palaces and cathedrals behind the stern Kremlin walls.

She looked in on a church service and met the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei, in the Kremlin's Uspensky Cathedral where all Russian tsars were crowned.

On Wednesday the royal couple fly to St. Petersburg, the old imperial capital and cradle of the revolution which toppled the hated Romanov tsar.

But on Red Square, meant to be a highlight of the tour,

confusion reigned over how many Russians the queen had actually met, as foreigners given easier access made up of the crowd.

"You will be surprised to learn I'm from London," British architect student Ray Gositski told Prince Philip. "No I won't," the queen's husband replied, "I have just met a whole group of people from Birmingham (in England)."

Prince Philip, who caused a furore with a joke about "slitty eyes" on a royal trip to China in 1986, told one British tourist, with a small beard, "you're half-way to being Russian with that beard."

U.K. rejects Sinn Fein's 'troops out' demand

BELFAST (R) — Britain said Tuesday that rival guerrilla armies in Northern Ireland had "massive amounts of arms" and there could be no withdrawal of troops from the province until security was guaranteed.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind rejected demands by the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, that it pull some of its 18,000 troops out of the province because of ceasefires by the IRA and its Protestant "loyalist" guerrilla rivals.

"Both the IRA and loyalist terrorist groups still have massive amounts of arms," he told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Radio.

"No arms have been handed over — these all remain in their possession and, therefore it is not possible simply to say that there is no need for protection for the people of Northern Ireland."

Mr. Rifkind's statement was the latest rebuff for Sinn Fein, which is under pressure from headline IRA activists to win some concessions on the troops' presence to match its ceasefire gesture.

Since the Sept. 1 IRA ceasefire, Sinn Fein has called for a troop withdrawal from Catholic areas which back its campaign to end British rule of Northern Ireland and a halt to searches for IRA arms caches.

Martin McGuinness, a top

Sinn Fein official, told the BBC that the continued of the 18,000 troops and armed Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) was a "provocation" for the 40 per cent Catholic minority.

He also repeated demands that Britain drop a ban on contacts with Sinn Fein and open talks to keep up the momentum of the unprecedented peace drive in the province.

"Here in Ireland most people were expecting that the British government would wholeheartedly join the peace process and ... begin a process of demilitarisation of the British army and RUC and accept that now is the time for the British government to join in talks with Sinn Fein," he said.

"Most people now expect, against a background of two of the three armed groupings demilitarising the situation, that the third and largest armed grouping — the British army — would now be demilitarised in a fairly speedy way."

"As long as this continues, it will become an increasing provocation to many people on the ground."

Mr. Rifkind said Britain had legitimate security concerns and would not be withdrawing troops as a "political gesture." He said, however,

that London looked forward to the day when there was no longer a need to keep so many soldiers there.

The IRA is thought to have some 300 tonnes of arms and explosives while its Protestant UVF and UFF rivals are believed to have smaller caches.

Meanwhile the Irish government, trying to smooth the entry into mainstream politics of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, will give the party three seats in a new forum it is setting up to discuss Northern Ireland's future.

Government sources said it was proposing to award Sinn Fein three places at the National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation which it intends to convene in the coming weeks.

Sinn Fein's invitation was seen as a reward for arranging the Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire last month which unlocked the doors to ending the 25-year Northern Ireland conflict.

Britain, Ireland's partner in a drive to find a political solution to the conflict, has until now shunned talks with Sinn Fein which it has refused to recognise as a legitimate political organisation because of the IRA's guerrilla war.

It says it cannot open a dialogue with Sinn Fein until

it is satisfied that the IRA's campaign to drive Britain from Northern Ireland is permanently over.

But Irish officials hope the London government will soften its position soon and signal an end to ban on contacts with Sinn Fein to keep up the momentum of the peace drive.

The next step is expected to be revealed early in November when Britain and Ireland unveil plans to set up some kind of regional elected assembly in Northern Ireland along with bodies to run cross-border trade and other economic affairs.

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds sees the forum as a background body which will examine all ways of ending religious and political differences across Ireland and allow politicians of all shades of opinion to meet and talk.

Sinn Fein's Northern Ireland rival, the moderate Social Democratic and Labour Party, is to get five forum seats while the small Alliance Party, which sees itself as the voice of all moderates, will get two places.

Sinn Fein's main political foes, Protestant unionist parties in Northern Ireland which are determined the province will stay British, have said they will not take part in the talks.

Jordan Times

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Scuffle of the big two

MOSCOW'S ATTEMPT to play a bigger role in the Gulf region suffered a major setback when the deal brokered by Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to extend Iraqi recognition of Kuwait in return for relaxing sanctions on Baghdad was rejected out of hand by Washington. The United Nations Security Council resolution adopted Saturday on the latest flareup between Iraq and Kuwait bore witness to this "defeat" when the council took a unanimous decision condemning last week's Iraqi massing of troops on the Kuwaiti border and calling for the withdrawal of Iraq's forces to their original bases without as much as mentioning the Russian mediating efforts. To be sure there was a faint praise of recent diplomatic attempts to defuse the crisis as a gesture of minor recognition of Russia's recent diplomatic initiative, but this mention was of no consequential importance in the final analysis. The ability of the U.S. to literally bypass Moscow's initiative was also borne out by the cool reception that the Russian foreign minister had received during his trip to the Gulf region.

These developments shed light on two fundamental U.S. objectives. The first is not to let Moscow reap benefits from the most recent crisis in the Gulf and in the end gain a foothold there. The second is that U.S. President Bill Clinton appears committed to goals in Iraq that go beyond the mere recognition of Kuwait by the Saddam Hussein regime. The way Washington dismissed the "breakthrough" struck by the Russian foreign minister casts doubts about Washington wanting anything less than the collapse of the current Iraqi regime. President Clinton knows very well that any relaxation of sanctions against Baghdad would only give a new lease on life to the ruling regime in Baghdad. A success similar to that scored in Haiti when the U.S. produced, directed and executed a return to democracy in that Caribbean country would surely add to the credentials of the U.S. chief executive as a strong-willed president who can deliver on at least some of the promises that he made on key foreign issues. The continued deployment of U.S. forces in the Gulf area lends support to the thesis that Washington views its present stance as unfinished business. With the Iraqi forces neutralised in the air and on the ground, and Iraq expressing readiness to extend formal recognition to Kuwait and its territorial integrity, there can be no explanation for the perpetual deployment of U.S. forces except to suggest that indeed there is still unfinished business awaiting these forces.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Tuesday hailed the initialing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, saying that a peace treaty represents the final stage of the negotiations, which have now proved to be successful and fulfilling all Jordanian demands. The paper said that all through the negotiations period, Jordan was seen on clinging hard to its rights in lands and water and has been determined to regain the usurped and legitimate rights. The initialing of the treaty Monday represented the opening of a new chapter for Jordan and its people, who have been yearning for security, stability, development and social prosperity, said the paper. The paper expressed hope that the move would now create the appropriate climate inside the Israeli society for accepting genuine peace free of any hatred towards the Arabs and would end racial discrimination practices against the Palestinians. The paper also expressed hope that the peace treaty with Jordan would pave the ground for progress on the other Arab-Israeli tracks for attaining a comprehensive peace in the region.

WE DO not yet know the contents of the peace treaty with Israel nor how much land and water Jordan is going to get out of the deal, said Faded Faek, a columnist in Al Ra'i Tuesday. But he said that the Jordanian people have the right to know the gains now that the Kingdom is signing the treaty in the coming days. The writer said that the Jordanian people have the right to an end to Israel's constant threat to their national security, to defined borders that would check Zionist expansionist ambitions, to restored lands and water, to the facilities for the displaced Palestinians to return to their homeland, to a climate of investments and to a scrapping of Jordan's debts to foreign countries.

Washington Watch

Iraq and Haiti: The role of public opinion in U.S. foreign policy

By Dr. James Zogby

PRESIDENT CLINTON glowed with exhilaration and relief as he addressed the nation on October 10th. The last of Haiti's military leadership was leaving the country, which paved the way for the return of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. And a decisive U.S. response to the Iraqi military build-up near the Kuwaiti border was being well-received across the U.S. political spectrum. The much-beleaguered Clinton foreign policy team was receiving public accolades for the first time.

The Haiti operation, fraught with dangers and potential pitfalls, has progressed smoothly. After taking a bipartisan bashing in the Congress from an unsupportive Congress, the administration strategy on Haiti appeared to be paying off. The threat of force had convinced the Haitian military junta to cede power and, despite a number of tense and difficult moments, the process of reestablishing Haiti's elected government and rebuilding that nation's security forces is moving forward.

While some still question the relevance of the president's "national interest" justification for the U.S. involvement in Haiti, with the exception (of course) of Ross Perot, very few voices are being raised against what seems to be a winning and bloodless campaign to restore democracy to Haiti.

The media, usually quite critical of Mr. Clinton in general and his foreign policy in particular, was uniform in its praise of the president. On the day the leader of the Haitian military government, General Raoul Cedras, announced his resignation from power, NBC news called it, "an important moment in President Clinton's campaign to restore democracy to Haiti." CBS announced, "Cedras bowed to U.S. military intervention." And ABC news, the highest rated in the country, gave Mr. Clinton credit for bringing about "a day most Haitians thought would never come." And the praise extended to the president's swift handling of the crisis with Iraq.

After being roundly criticised for being "indecisive and ineffectual" in foreign policy, Mr. Clinton appeared strong and decisive. In his October 10th speech to the nation, the president noted, "our objectives were clear, our forces are strong and our cause is right. We will not allow Saddam Hussein to defy the will of the United States and the international community."

Even Mr. Clinton's Republican opponents were strong in their praise of his actions regarding Haiti and, particularly, Iraq. Former President Bush said: "President Clinton has done the right thing in moving the force promptly. ... If fully support what the president has done." Bush's Secretary of State James Baker also praised the move, saying, "what President Clinton said in his press conference was exactly the right approach to take." Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole called Mr. Clinton's action "the appropriate response." And in answer to a question about Ross Perot's criticism that Mr. Clinton acted out of political motivation, Sen. Dole said, "I'm going to leave the politics out of it. This is not a Democratic or Republican effort, this is an American effort."

The nation's papers rang out in praise of Mr. Clinton. Headlines the day after the President's speech included: "For Clinton, a moment to savour," "President basks in glow of twin successes," and "Iraq, Haiti, give Clinton rare wins in foreign policy." The ever colourful New York Daily News front-page headline read: "Suddenly Wimp Willie is Big Bad Bill." And political pundits predicted a significant shift in the president's public approval ratings as a result of

the moves and media praise.

The early polls seem to bear out this prediction. A large sample showed 74 per cent of the Americans approving of sending troops to deter Iraq, and Mr. Clinton's overall approval rating has edged up 7 points, largely as a result of his foreign policy victories in Haiti and Iraq. It is somewhat ironic that this late in the stretch run for the November elections, Mr. Clinton and the Democrats are getting a boost from foreign policy reasons after trumpeting their domestic agenda and enduring regular criticism for their handling of foreign policy over the last twenty-two months.

In a real sense, despite their obvious differences, both Gen. Cedras and Mr. Saddam have helped "make Clinton's day" — and both provide interesting case studies in the important role of public opinion in shaping U.S. foreign policy.

While other significant factors must also be considered in determining the feasibility and desirability of U.S. military intervention — for example, national interest and winnability — public opinion, both domestic and international, are central factors and can even be decisive.

There are, in fact, four "publics" whose opinion needs to be taken into account. Three of them are domestic: public opinion in general, the opinion in Congress, and the opinion of key interest groups whose ability to shape both congressional and presidential actions are sometimes critical to any action. The fourth group to be considered is the opinion of regional allies and the effect that any action will have on them.

Looking at the crisis in Bosnia, for example, one sees that despite some strong congressional voices in favour of a change in policy and support for lifting the arms sanctions in order to help the Bosnian government's ability to punish the Serbian aggressors, the congressional actors have been slow in mobilising their colleagues and have never posed an organised or decisive challenge to the administration's policy. Public opinion in general has been ambivalent about U.S. action in Bosnia and is generally opposed to a significant military involvement. And despite valiant though underfunded efforts by Arab American and Muslim American organisations, no decisive interest group has materialised to threaten the administration's position. Add to this the fact that the U.S.'s main European allies have continually opposed any unilateral U.S. action while they themselves have failed to present a direct challenge to the Serbs to stop their aggression, and it becomes clear why, continued Serbs aggression notwithstanding, U.S. policy will most probably not change to a directly interventionist posture.

In Haiti, the picture was somewhat different. Initially, public opinion was not in favour of a U.S. intervention and there was strong congressional opposition to any direct U.S. role — in fact Mr. Clinton never would have won a vote in Congress in support of ousting Haiti's military regime. But a key interest group — the Congressional Black Caucus, consisting of 40 African American members of Congress — and the strong lobbying and direct action of the African American lobby Trans Africa did present a growing challenge even a threat to the Clinton administration. A hunger strike to Trans Africa's leader and civil disobedience which led to the arrests of some members of Congress proved embarrassing to the administration. And added to these domestic efforts was international support for a change in policy that finally forced the administration to act.

The success so far of the Haitian campaign has, as I have

noted, silenced congressional critics and at least neutralised public opinion opposition to the intervention. If the policy continues to succeed, and it does face some risks, it will serve the president well. He will be assured of the support he needs from his important political base in the African American community and it will reinforce the U.S. role in the Caribbean and Western Hemisphere affairs.

Action against Saddam Hussein poses no difficulty on any level of public opinion. General public opinion, congressional opinion, key interest groups and the U.S.'s regional allies see the regime of the Iraqi government as "fair game." While there is growing concern for the plight of the Iraqi people, that concern in no way translates into a weakness of resolve to hold Saddam's government in check. In fact, his government is seen as the main reason why the people of the country continue to suffer — not only are they suffering from sanctions but also from Mr. Saddam's repressive rule.

In the realm of public opinion, there are no real voices against the president's action in response to a concerned U.S. military buildup. In fact, the reverse is true. Failure to take the decisive and punitive action he has against the Iraqi regime would be a liability for any U.S. leader.

While some speculate as to what Mr. Saddam's motives may have been and how he may have sought to use his recent provocative action to his advantage — given any reading of U.S. opinion and the imperative it creates for any U.S. president — Mr. Saddam clearly miscalculated and will most probably pay dearly for his misreading of the situation.

In a real sense, Mr. Saddam gave the administration an important opportunity to demonstrate to a concerned U.S. public that it could and would respond. Not only has the president received a short-term "bump" in the polls for his action, but it has reinforced public opinion about his leadership, and given some reinforcement as well to his Haiti policy and handling of foreign policy in general.

How the administration moves forward riding the crest of this wave of bipartisan public support as the crisis with Iraq continues to develop, will be determined by other factors: a course of action that meets U.S. interests, that is acceptable to regional allies and is either winnable or likely to produce a positive outcome — but it is clear that the president will face little domestic opposition to any action.

There is an irony in all of this. Bill Clinton based his presidency on fulfilling a domestic agenda. While he has faced significant challenges in Congress, he has succeeded in turning the economy around and in passing some important domestic legislation. But even with 4 million new jobs, sustained economic growth, the lowest inflation rate in a decade, and a reduced unemployment level — he still has not received the public support and recognition that his record warrants.

At the same time, the president was castigated by friend and foe alike for what was characterised as a "waffling foreign policy." What is surprising, therefore, is that this same Bill Clinton now goes forward to the November elections with increased public support for his two most recent foreign policy actions.

Can Mr. Clinton sustain the momentum, and can he continue to move the situations in both Haiti and Iraq to positive outcomes? Time will tell the answer to those questions, but what is certain so far is that both Gen. Cedras and Mr. Saddam have given Bill Clinton an important opportunity to win public support for his administration — and so close to the November elections.

New revelations on the 1982 invasion of Lebanon

By Israel Shahak

THE 12TH anniversary of the June 1982 invasion of Lebanon was commemorated by the Hebrew press with a spate of articles, some of which disclosed previously unknown facts. The most important new disclosure about the invasion was made by General (Res.) Amir Droni in an interview with Alex Fishman in Ma'ariv on July 1. The interview was promotional: Droni's intention was to publicise his forthcoming (censorship permitting) book about his army career.

In 1982 General Droni was head of the Northern Command of the Israeli army, in charge of preparing the invasion plans. As he says with pride, he began this job long before the actual invasion. During it he commanded the invading troops. Eventually, in the wake of the publication of the report of the Kahan Commission of Inquiry which investigated the Israeli involvement in the Sabra and Shatila massacre, he had to retire from his post. But even then he was rewarded by a sequence of appointments to other high army positions. He retired from army service in 1987 to become director of the Israeli Archaeological Service.

Droni's main aim is to exculpate the Israeli army officer corps in general and himself in particular for the failure of the invasion. He does so by blaming in the first place the then defence minister, Ariel Sharon, but also other "politicians" (i.e. Begin and the Likud), who in Droni's view were too "moderate" to assure the invasion's success. I have never had any sympathy for Sharon, but I must admit that compared to Droni and his colleagues Sharon's conduct in 1982 can indeed be considered "moderate".

Droni recounts that the Northern Command "initially prepared three alternative plans by which to invade Lebanon, all bearing the code-name Oranim (pines), only differentiated by the adjectives 'little', 'medium' and 'big'." The "little Ora-

nim" plan "essentially amounted to a repeat of the 1978 Litani operation" and was "discarded early" because the army did not see how it could solve any problem. The army put all its weight behind the "Big Oranim" plan, but in the end it was the "medium" plan which was put into operation. Why? Due to the downright "criminal moderation" of Sharon and the Israeli government of the time. Droni admits that this "medium" plan was totally different from what Israeli propaganda put out at the time. He says he learned of the "order not to advance beyond 40km from Israel's (northern) border" from the media when his headquarters were already "north of Lake Qar'un, far beyond that line." Of course, he firmly denies that any such order was ever issued.

The "big" plan

The "Big Oranim" plan as described by Droni did indeed differ from the actual progress of the invasion in a number of aspects. To begin with, its two aims were "to extend Israeli occupation over the whole of Lebanon and to fight a total war against Syria". The army planners considered it certain that "matters would anyway unfold this way". The only question debated was "whether we should pounce on the Syrians first and on the terrorists later, or the other way round. This was what we still hesitated about but we had no doubts about the remainder. If that plan had been carried out, the war would have been over for certain within 48-72 hours and Beirut would have been in our hands no later."

Droni admits that the "Big Oranim" plan differed from the actual progress of the invasion in tactics as well as in strategic aims. In the "big" plan the invasion of Lebanon was to begin without waiting for any actual or alleged terrorist provocation, such as the attempt to assassinate the Israeli ambassador in London, which Begin exploited to justify his decision to invade Lebanon. The advance of Israeli troops into Leba-



M. KAHIL

non from the Israeli border was planned to be only one of the fronts. A large army unit was to be simultaneously parachuted onto the Beirut-Damascus Highway. Another large force was to be landed on the coast at Beirut to capture the city. And so on and so forth. Droni's accuracy is not in doubt. The Israeli army must indeed have made such a plan which it had to subsequently modify as a result of Sharon's objections, even prior to notifying Begin about it.

Droni still does not understand that had the "Big Oranim" plan been ultimately approved, Begin could not possibly have claimed that the invasion of Lebanon was nothing more than a "peace for Galilee" war. Of course, this claim was always deceptive, but for a time the deception worked, and remarkably well.

But for Droni politics do not exist, except as an obstacle in implementing Israeli military plans. Accordingly, he boasts that "everything" — except perhaps the behaviour of Israeli politicians — "was planned to the last comma". He has no doubts whatsoever that had there been no political intervention, all planned operations would have been crowned with success. He tentatively

admits only one mistake. Fishman asks: "Perhaps your only mistake was that you didn't go to the politicians or the chief-of-staff to tell them, 'either you let me do what I want or I resign instantly?'" Droni replies: "That's very likely. Had I done so, the entire war might have unfolded differently."

More information has been provided by Amir Oren, whose article (Davar, July 1) was written after the publication of the Shamgar Commission's report which exonerated all Israeli officials and institutions from responsibility for Goldstein's massacre in Hebron. Sharon claimed that he would have been absolved of any personal responsibility for the Sabra and Shatila massacre if only the Kahan Commission, set up in 1982 to investigate Israeli responsibility for the massacre, had applied the same criteria as the Shamgar Commission. Oren used some previously unpublished "official" (Israeli) documents from the time of the war in Lebanon to disclose some aspects of the performance of Sharon and Israeli intelligence chiefs at that time.

Israel and Sabra and Shatila

The documents quoted by

needed to be detained and to imprison whoever needed to be imprisoned. During his statement to this effect, he received a message and updated the ministers: 'Just now we received a report that a large unit of Falangists is entering the Sabra camp and is already combing it.' One minister wanted to know the source of the report. Sharon answered: 'No, this report does not come from us. The matter will anyhow become public because the facts will speak for themselves. From Sabra they will go elsewhere. This is why we need a few days more to eliminate the entire terrorist infrastructure.'

Oren comments: "One wonders how Ariel Sharon was in a position to prophesy that from Sabra the Falangists would go to another camp. But irrespective of Sharon's prescience, one can be quite sure that the heads of the Israeli security system knew well enough the murderous propensities of their Lebanese partner." He considers this sufficient proof of their complicity in "the murder of hundreds of women and children in Sabra and Shatila."

But Oren has other "official documents" specifically proving the complicity of Mossad. They show that "Nahum Admoni, who in early September (1982) was the deputy head of Mossad and during the massacre already its head, was told by a Falangist leader that 'the Palestinians should not be treated with a generosity which behaves the victors'. Even 'before the unification of Beirut (i.e. the Israeli conquest of West Beirut)' another Falangist leader told a Mossad representative that 'the Palestinians would be dealt with by Elie Hobeiga's apparatus'. Oren clarifies that the 'official documents' clearly imply that the said 'apparatus' busied itself with 'making people disappear'. Such documents leave no doubt now that the Sabra and Shatila massacres were in fact working for the Israeli security system, following its orders and reporting back to it. — Middle East International

Negotiators work on treaty annexes

(Continued from page 1)

been unable to secure a copy of the draft treaty initiated Monday, Dr. Tarawneh told journalists "there were no losers" as a result of the agreement.

A primary concern for Jordan was to reach a peace deal with Israel that would not infringe on its sovereignty, whether in the territorial or security spheres, and which guaranteed Jordan's rights in water and to every inch of territory that was occupied by Israel.

Dr. Tarawneh, who touched on the details of the annexes in these three main issues, said that the treaty addressed all of Jordan's demands and more.

On the security agreement, both the Jordanian and Israeli delegates praised the deal as a "balanced security deal."

A senior Israeli security negotiator told the Jordan Times that Israel was looking to defuse a "potentially hostile" Jordan by reaching agreement over security. He said that Israel was nevertheless primarily concerned over "maintaining the stability of the Hashemite Kingdom."

"We have the longest borders with Jordan and in many areas the border was very close to our centres," the Israeli delegate said, without revealing his name.

"When Jordan signs the agreement on security, we will feel secure because we know that Jordan will keep its commitment... for us the Kingdom has a lot of credibility," he said.

Although the details of the

security annex were not made public yet, Dr. Tarawneh told the Jordan Times that it does not infringe on the Kingdom's "right to self defence as per international agreements in that regard."

"We not only set a precedent on that level which will serve the other tracks of negotiations with Israel; we also protected our Arab and Islamic allies," Dr. Tarawneh said.

According to Jordanian delegation sources, one of the sticking points in these negotiations with Israel was "moving away from the precedent of Egypt's security agreement with Israel which placed Israel at an advantage over agreements signed in the Arab League or the joint Arab League agreements."

"We did not allow for clauses that would have placed the Israeli-Jordanian agreement in precedence over our Arab and Muslim agreements vis-a-vis situations of self-defence," a Jordanian delegate familiar with the security agreement told the Jordan Times.

"It is a balanced security agreement which guaranteed our sovereignty and our right to self-defence," Dr. Tarawneh said.

On the land issue, Jordan's partial concession on exchange of territory and leasing out land, according to a senior Jordanian delegate, "affects what amounts to about three per cent of the overall area."

The senior delegate clarified that territories which are affected by the "lease back" deal are farmland "and not populated areas."

"But these territories have

been recognised as Jordanian lands and will be governed by Jordanian laws regarding ownership by foreigners," the senior delegate said.

According to Dr. Tarawneh, Jordan was also able to guard against the destabilisation of its economic and monetary interests in areas in the West Bank which are not governed as yet by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"On the day the agreement was signed we received a letter from Israel that recognised and pledged to protect Jordan's economic and monetary interests in the West Bank," Dr. Tarawneh said.

This letter, according to another senior delegate, promises that Israel "will directly consult with Jordan when discussing economic relations with the Palestinians."

It also guarantees that the Kingdom "will be given ample time to finish what it has to do to protect its interests."

According to Dr. Tarawneh, Jordan was also able to secure arrangements that "will keep the issue of refugees alive until final status talks."

"We were able to ensure the continued services of UNRWA in Jordan and received a commitment that in the multilateral on refugees, these services to refugees will be upgraded," Dr. Tarawneh said.

"There was also a reiteration of the common agenda article on refugees which says that final status talks will resolve this issue according to international laws," he added.

PLO upset over treaty

(Continued from page 1)

Israel with "a blatant violation" of the Palestinian self-rule agreement, which sets aside the dispute over Jerusalem for two years.

The peace treaty, due to be signed next week, acknowledges Jordan's "historic role" in administering Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites, in line with a peace declaration signed in July by Israel and Jordan.

The PNA has already taken control of Muslim sites on the West Bank on Sunday appointed its own mufti or religious figurehead in Jerusalem in rivalry with Jordan's own appointment announced earlier in the day.

That has left Jerusalem with two muftis for the first time in history.

The PNA said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had "highlighted the dangers of what has been agreed upon regarding Jerusalem and the Islamic holy sites."

Mr. Peres made it clear on Tuesday that Jordan was in charge of Islamic affairs in the Holy City as far as Israel was concerned.

"There is no reason in the world for us to take anything away from the Jordanians to give it to the Palestinians," he said.

Jordan sought to play down the dispute.

"I do not think it is a matter of struggle," said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

He said Jordan could not intervene in the internal affairs of the Palestinian Authority. "Nor can we meddle in its decisions."

He added the Palestinians had entrusted Jordan with responsibility for the Muslim shrines when Amman severed administrative and legal ties with the West Bank in 1988.

"We cannot leave this supervision in a void. We will maintain it until (the Palestinians) are able to finish negotiations and we will respect their results," he said.

Two Palestinian factions criticised the Jordan-Israel treaty as a "surrenderist solution" and claimed it would never serve Arab interests.

Some newspapers in the Gulf region, however, were mixed in their reaction to the draft accord.

The Al Wabha daily of Abu Dhabi largely took a pessimistic stance on the agreement, saying it was the result of Mr. Rabin's need for an image boost at home.

It also claimed he pushed the accord through, capitalising on the fresh Iraqi threat to Kuwait, which portrayed "Arabs as a threat to peace not only in the region but through the entire world."

However, Dubai's government-owned Al Bayan newspaper described the accord as the second step towards regional peace, after Egypt's accord with Israel 15 years ago.

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a joint statement blasting the Jordan-Israel accord.

"This deal will augment fragmentation and weakness in the Arab World and will increase Israel's arrogance and intransigence," said the fronts which have opposed the U.S.-sponsored peace process since it was launched in October 1991.

They claimed Jordan had rushed into the pact and made concessions on land and water "for the benefit of Israel's greed."

Libya said the treaty was another blow for Arabs and reiterated that Middle East peace could only be achieved with the destruction of the Jewish state.

State radio said the treaty is "another setback suffered by the Arabs in facing Israeli expansionism."

"Only a just peace could be real, and a just peace requires the Israelis to return to the countries they came from," before the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

Masri quits race

(Continued from page 1)

the Islamic Action Front which decided against fielding a candidate because he did not have a chance of winning will also support him.

Parliamentary sources said Mr. Srour can count on the support of the majority of his 12-member bloc, the 10-member National Bloc and the National Action Front which includes over 20 deputies when the House elects its next speaker Saturday.

Jordan to get 215m cubic metres of water

(Continued from page 1)

struction of Al Wahdeh Dam agreed upon by the Kingdom and Syria.

Dr. Haddadin, speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations that resumed in Aqaba on Tuesday, gave a split-up of the water that would be available to Jordan as under:

— 45 mcms from the Yarmouk River plus another 10 mcms of desalinated water with immediate effect.

— 50 mcms from the overflow of the Yarmouk river;

— 20 mcms from the overflow of the Jordan River;

— 50 mcms from other sources that have to be agreed upon later.

Dr. Haddadin said under these arrangements Jordan would have 175 mcms of "good quality" water suitable for drinking purposes.

In addition, Jordan will also get 40 mcms from the River Jordan south of the Lake Tiberias, he said. This water will be of low quality and could be used for irrigation purposes, he added.

Jordan is currently not receiving any water from the Jordan River which Jordanian officials said has been polluted by Israel.

With the 100 mcms of water that Jordan will be receiving when the peace deal goes into effect, Jordan will be getting around 260 mcms of water from the Yarmouk, which is 117 mcms less than the share allocated to it by the Johnston plan.

Dr. Haddadin's Israeli counterpart to the water talks, Noah Kenarti, told the Jordan Times that Israel, by reaching this deal on water, has accepted the Jordanian demand to resolve the issue of Jordan's rightful shares of water in the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers before addressing Israeli requests for find-

ing new sources of water through cooperation between the two states.

"Now we have a good base to build on," he told Jordan Times in an interview.

Although he dodged a number of questions over whether Israel had been prepared to accept this "fair" deal over water, as one Jordanian delegate put it, Mr. Kenarti did say that the final numbers of water shares "were added on by His Majesty and Prime Minister Rabin," during the overnight marathon talks to reach agreement earlier this week in Amman.

Clinton to attend Oct. 26 signing

(Continued from page 1)

state of war, will be signed at a spot in the Wadi Araba desert, 13 kilometres north of Aqaba and Eilat.

Round-the-clock preparations were under way to refurbish the site of the ceremony.

Jordanian and Israeli negotiators met under a blazing sun inside a tent erected across their border on July 18 for their first talks in the region after more than 2-1/2 years of negotiations in Washington. The peace process was launched in Madrid in 1991.

The Wadi Araba site had been lined with barbed wire and land mines for decades before it was cleared to put up the tent.

The July talks signalled the start of accelerated diplomatic activity that led to the draft treaty.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also said he did not believe Arab heads of state would be invited to attend the signing ceremony for the treaty.

"Only the American president will take part," Mr. Mubarak added.

Mr. Mubarak noted that there were no Arab heads of state present, only the U.S. president, when Egypt signed its peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and when the PLO signed its autonomy agreement with Israel in September of last year.

"So I don't think we'd attend," he said.

Last of Syrian Jews to stay

(Continued from page 12)

sign that a peace treaty is now on the table."

Rabbi Hamra spoke to Israel Radio from his apartment in Brooklyn, New York, over the weekend. The radio could not broadcast the remarks until now because of the censorship.

The Rabbi, speaking modern Hebrew that he picked up from Israeli radio broadcasts, thanked Mr. Assad for "his wisdom in enabling the Syrian Jews to leave."

Rabbi Hamra was expected to land at Ben Gurion International Airport along with his wife, six children, his mother and brother. The family was to be met by the minister of immigrant absorption, Yair Tzaban.

Syria lifted travel restrictions on Syrian Jews in April 1992 at the request of the United States. However,

there were many delays in issuing the exit permits, leading to speculation the ban had been reimposed.

All the 230 Jews who remain in Syria have exit permits, but most of them have chosen to remain, largely for economic reasons. Many of those staying behind are elderly.

The head of Israel's paragon government agency overseeing immigration said meanwhile Jews who emigrate from Syria have to leave behind all their goods.

"Jews who want to leave do so with nothing because everything has to be registered with a special office in Damascus — property, bank accounts," Jewish Agency chairman Yehiel Leket told AFP.

He said only 230 Jews remain in Syria.

"They have passports and exit visas, but we do not know if they will emigrate to the United States or to Israel."

TO OUR READERS

Due to a technical problem with our printing presses and to a regrettable human error, some defective copies of yesterday's Jordan Times found their way into the market. While we apologise to all readers who had bought such copies, we urge them to contact the Jordan Times for a free copy of the same issue.

The Editor

Jordan-Israel treaty hailed

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan have initiated a draft peace treaty and congratulate them on this historic achievement which is a further step towards a comprehensive peace," a Foreign Office statement said, adding:

"It further underlines the benefits that the peace process can bring to the people of the region."

The Australian government said it "warmly welcomed the news of the agreement."

"This historic agreement comes nearly three months after the signing of the Washington Declaration in which King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin agreed formally to end their 46-year state of war, and paves the way for a new era of peace in the region. The peace treaty is Israel's second with an Arab state, the first being the Camp David accord signed in 1979 with Egypt," it

said. "At a time when cycles of violence and counter-violence still threaten the stability of the Middle East region, this treaty, which settles long-standing differences on water rights, border demarcation and security arrangements, is a highly significant achievement."

King Hussein on Tuesday received a phone call from Colombian President Ernesto Samaras, congratulating him on initiating the peace treaty and voicing his appreciation to the King's continuous endeavours to establish a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi voiced full support for the King's historic achievement, which culminated in initiating the peace treaty with Israel. In a cable he sent to King Hussein, Mr. Lawzi congratulated the King, in his name and on behalf of the Upper House on this achievement.

"We pledge allegiance and loyalty to your historic Hashemite leadership and believe in your noble principles and will share with Your Majesty the peace-era responsibilities," he said in his cable.

The Irbid Chapter of the Jordan Peace Forum hailed the King's efforts and voiced their full support for his courageous steps.

The General Federation of the Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU) also welcomed the initialing of the treaty, saying that it was consistent with the wish of all peace-loving people in the region. The GJTU said labourers were in dire need of just peace, that will ensure stability.

"They have sought it and worked for it," it said.

The statement said labourers support the King's wise steps, and voiced hope that such peace will open new scopes of cooperation, based on mutual respect and appreciation among nations.

"Bright is the future of our people with the dear leader comrade Kim Jong-Il at the head of the party, the state and the revolutionary armed forces," said the official North Korean news agency KCNA, quoting the Workers' Daily.

"All party members and other workers must proceed vigorously with the conviction that nothing is impossible in the world for us and we will have certain victory if we are guided by our chief leader," the report said.

Earlier, KCNA said the North Korean people now consider Kim Jong-Il, son of late President Kim Il-Sung, as their "great leader." Kim Il-Sung had been known by the title before his death while his son was called the "dear leader."

The praise follows the end of 100 days of mourning for Kim Il-Sung, who died July 8. It appears to support those who predict a peaceful transition for Kim Jong-Il, 52, who appeared in public Sunday for the first time since the end of July.

Cabinet authorises Majali to sign treaty

(Continued from page 1)

the Jordanian people are prepared for peace because "They have long believed in it," adding it was the duty of the government to keep them in the picture of developments in the peace process with Israel.

"We talk frankly and openly. This is something that Jordanians well know," he said.

Most Jordanians were taken by surprise by the announcement of the peace treaty and the government has yet to release the details of the agreement, which will constitute the second peace treaty between Israel and an Arab country. Egypt signed a peace accord with Israel in 1978.

Asked about opposition to the agreement in the country, Dr. Majali said: "We have a democracy. Everybody is free to express themselves whether they are members of Parliament, political parties or the public or private sectors."

He said the treaty will not be implemented if the "majority does not like it," adding that the government will not impose its views on Parliament when it discusses the agreement.

Opposition parties have complained that the government proceeded in the peace process against the will of the people and demanded it allows them for to express their views.

Eight opposition leftist, pan-Arabist and Islamist parties have accused the government of preventing them from conveying their views to the public.

Responding to a question on the status of refugees, Dr. Majali said the agreement specifies that this issue should be dealt with in accordance with international law, adding that Jordan will work towards the alleviation of the suffering of refugees.

He said the fate of displaced persons from the 1967 war is to be addressed, according to the agreement, within the framework of four-party talks between Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt and Israel as stipulated by the Oslo accords signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Responding to a question on why Jordan would sign a peace treaty with Israel without waiting for other Arab parties as had been pledged at the outset of the Madrid talks, Dr. Majali said:

"Attempts for coordination (among the Arab parties) did not succeed. It would be futile to wait till the end."

"Accordingly, it was inevitable to reach what we have reached with the Israelis," said Dr. Majali, who stressed that Jordan had not abandoned coordination with other Arab parties.

Dr. Majali also said that progress is being registered on the other tracks of the

negotiating, and voiced hope that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the negotiations will soon reach solutions so that the peace process will be "comprehensive."

Asked about the implications of the Jordanian-Israeli deal for Arab-Israeli ties, the Prime Minister pointed to "a continuous change" in relations between Israel and Tunis, Morocco, Qatar and Oman.

Dr. Majali said the draft peace treaty confirmed Israel's recognition of the Jordanian role in caring for the holy shrines in Jerusalem in the same way that the Washington Declaration of July 25 did.

He said Jordan will continue its role in Jerusalem until the Palestinians reach "a solution in their negotiations with Israel and we will respect what conclusion they come to," noting that the Palestinian leadership has agreed to postpone discussion of Jerusalem until negotiation on the final status of the occupied territories begins.

Saying that the Palestinians had entrusted Jordan with the religious custodianship of the holy sites in Jerusalem, Dr. Majali said we cannot "leave this custodianship to a vacuum and we have to continue our role... in this critical period" before the final status of Jerusalem is agreed upon.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday that the peace accord confirms that Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem remain under Jordanian supervision.

"Responsibility for the Waqf (which administers the sites) in Jerusalem will remain with Jordan and not the Palestinians," Mr. Peres told Israel Television.

"There is no reason in the world for us to take anything away from the Jordanians to give it to the Palestinians," he added.

"In the treaty we gave to the Jordanians what they already had and there is no reason to answer all the Palestinian demands."

Mr. Peres said the Palestinians were interested in the political role of Jerusalem while Jordan's concern was with religion.

The PLO wants the eastern sector as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

"King Hussein told us: 'God is the true sovereign of Jerusalem, while the Palestinians want territorial control over Jerusalem,'" Mr. Peres added.

The agreement repeats "word for word" a section of the Washington Declaration.

One clause in the declaration acknowledged Jordan's "historic role" in administering Jerusalem's holy sites.

It said Israel would give priority to this role in negotiations with the PLO on the

final status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In his comments to the press on Tuesday, Dr. Majali said he expected a boom of foreign investment in the Kingdom after the signing of the peace treaty because many of the burdens that were laid in the face of it for political considerations in the past will have to be removed now.

The prime minister said the Jordanian-Israeli treaty will have no effect on the economic deals the Kingdom has reached with the Palestinians, saying that the future "will be bright for all."

He confirmed reports though that Israel has promised Jordan to inform it of any economic talks with the Palestinians that might affect Jordan.

Dr. Majali acknowledged the presence of economic problems between Jordan and the Palestinians, noting that attempts had been made to draft an agenda for resolving these differences "which still exist among Jordan, the Palestinians and Israel."

He said the Palestinians have not formed a state yet and until that happens the problems will have to be tackled by the three sides.

Responding to a question on Jordan's expectations from the Casablanca conference, Dr. Majali said Jordan will seek financing during the summit for a number of projects that it has prepared.

He said Jordan, whose delegation will be headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will be well prepared for the economic summit which could not be held in Jordan in April as originally planned due to political reasons at the time.

Asked whether Jordan expected economic assistance after the peace treaty, the prime minister pointed to the pledge made by U.S. President Clinton to help Jordan address its economic problems in terms of writing off or rescheduling debts or extending new soft loans and grants to finance the Kingdom's economic development.

Dr. Majali said much work needs to be done before all negotiations between Israel and the Kingdom are completed, noting that talks being held in Aqaba by the Jordanian and Israeli delegations are looking into these issues.

Dr. Majali said the draft peace agreement allows for solving disagreements through international arbitration if necessary.

Responding to a question on whether a cabinet reshuffle is expected in light of the strategic change that has occurred, Dr. Majali said the cabinet is the one that negotiated the treaty and if a reshuffle was to occur it would have happened before.

Iran returns to state-of-war economy amid crisis

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is returning to a state-of-war economy amid a severe economic crisis, reversing the free-market policies of the past five years.

Only five years after the introduction of an ambitious economic liberalisation programme, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani announced last week his government intended to introduce an "urgent and serious" programme to control prices from production to distribution at retail level.

President Rafsanjani's comments followed mounting criticism of his handling of the economy which have resulted in soaring inflation and a foreign debt of \$30 billion.

The cost of basic goods has risen up to 150 per cent in the past two months, provoking widespread discontent among the population.

In a bid to steer the economy, the government has announced the introduction of death penalty for price gouging, a return to a coupon system for basic products and a ban on the import of non-essential goods.

While admitting for the first time the economy was gripped by a crisis, President Rafsanjani blamed "profiteers" for inflation and declared war on "unscrupulous traders" in the powerful bazaar, a traditional ally of the Islamic regime in Iran.

In the face of the crisis, the

Council of Discernment, a legislative body set up to mediate between the parliament and the executive branch, granted the government emergency powers last week to tackle inflation.

Justice Minister Ismael Shushitari said Saturday the death penalty would be handed down to profiteers and speculators found guilty of disrupting a "fair conduct of business."

Capital punishment has rarely been used in Iran for economic offenses, even during the eight-year war with Iraq from 1980-1988.

State enterprises, until now pressed to sell their products at "real prices" in order to be cost-effective, are now re-

quired to obtain authorisation before introducing any price hikes.

The government has also reintroduced a system of discount coupons for basic goods in a bid to make them affordable to the poor.

The system, first implemented at the beginning of the war, has tapered off in the past several years after the government decided to remove subsidies in line with its free-market policies.

Funds were allocated Saturday to subsidise sugar and cooking oil and more basic products are expected to be added to the list in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the authorities have turned the screw on the

foreign exchange market subjecting it to strict controls by the central bank.

The open market has been blamed for the collapse of the national currency, the rial which has devalued by half in the past year, triggering a higher inflation.

These measures have made it all but impossible for importers to obtain hard currency through the open market, and they have to conduct any deals with foreign companies through the state banking system, which often fails to deliver.

For the first time since the introduction of open-door policies in 1989, the government has also taken steps to curb imports, which are ex-

pected to fall below \$10 billion this year compared with \$20 billion last year.

Iran is hoping to save part of its annual hard currency income of \$15 to \$18 billion — depending on oil price fluctuations — to pay off its debt.

Western economic experts estimate the country would have to set aside up to \$5 billion a year to pay off its debt by 2000.

In the latest move toward protectionism, the parliament adopted Sunday the first part of a proposal to ban the import of "non-essential goods" such as cigarettes, gums and soft drinks — which swept the Iranian market after the war.

AFM investors seen as cautious

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Investors at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) took a cautious approach Tuesday to Monday's initialing of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel while Israeli counterparts reacted enthusiastically to the event, which marked a major turn in the Jewish state's efforts to make peace with its Arab neighbours.

The daily AFM report said the general share price index closed at 145.08 points on Tuesday, up 0.4 points, or two per cent, from Monday's close. Volume during the one-session of trading was less than JD 600,000.

Brokers said investors appeared to be awaiting further details of the peace treaty before moving in any direction. "Many speculators believe that the market had already absorbed the economic prospects of the peace process, and now they are looking for specifics of economic projects to take advantage," said a broker.

peace negotiations in Madrid in 1991. "Bulls in the market have nosed out every possible aspect of the fruits of peace and capitalised on it in the past three years," said a broker. "It is no longer a novelty."

However, added the broker, "when specific projects are finalised, people would look for who could gain from them and zero in on the beneficiaries; that search is on now."

In addition, the attraction of Jordanian firms benefiting from the development of the Palestinian economy is also fading, following signs of strains in political relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"There may not be specific reasons, but it is a time for caution for everybody, particularly those with own money in the stock market," said the broker.

The Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday that Israeli investors reacted enthusiastically to the peace treaty.

Post analyst Andre Lombroso reported:

The initialing of the agreement injected renewed optimism in the market. Nevertheless, most of the optimism passed over the institutional. The bulk of the activity was originated by money managers.

The day's rises took place on a very broad front, as only four securities declined in price on the two-sided market.

Some of the blue chips rose sharply.

Dead Sea works was up 6.7 per cent (any connection with the agreements along the Jordan-Israel border?).

Lebanon, Syria initial labour agreement

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon and Syria Tuesday initialled an agreement regulating the presence of Syrian workers in Lebanon amid conflicting reports on their numbers.

According to unofficial estimates published last week by the respected An Nahar daily, some 650,000 Syrian workers hold jobs in Lebanon with most of them employed in construction and agriculture.

A total of one million Syrians live in the country, the report said.

Earlier this month Lebanon's Labour Minister Abdullah Al Amin was quoted as saying that 150,000 Syrians worked in Lebanon.

But before Tuesday's signing ceremony he told reporters there were only 10,000 Syrians who hold permanent jobs in Lebanon while up to 25,000 hold seasonal jobs.

Syrian Labour Minister Ali Khalil agreed with the figures provided by Mr. Amin and said that any other statistics were exaggerated.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi said recently that some 700,000 foreigners were working in Lebanon and sending home more than \$1 billion in remittances.

Under the Syrian-Lebanese agreement Syrian workers will be expected to obtain a 60-day temporary entry visa on entering Lebanon and then apply for a work permit — measures which previously did not affect them.

All other foreigners entering Lebanon need a visa.

The labour accord, which is yet to be ratified by both countries' parliaments, comes one week after Lebanon signed an agreement with a U.N. agency aimed at surveying the Lebanese labour market.

Russia puts woman at helm of central bank

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin put a woman at the helm of Russia's financial world Tuesday by naming a little-known deputy head of the Russian Central Bank as the institution's acting chairman.

A central bank spokesman said Tatyana Paramonova, 44, had "the energy of a devil."

In an appointment which still has to be confirmed by the State Duma (lower house of parliament), she replaces incumbent Viktor Gerashchenko, who quit Friday after being blamed by Mr. Yeltsin for last week's crash of the rouble.

Bank officials said they expected her to follow Mr. Gerashchenko's line.

"Initially, everything will

be done to maintain the status quo," said a senior central banker. "There will be no drastic moves at first."

But he added: "The central bank has been put into a difficult and unpleasant position. It is a huge organisation which cannot be treated like this. In monetary policy any sharp moves are inadmissible."

Mr. Gerashchenko, the former head of the Soviet state bank, resigned after Mr. Yeltsin asked the Duma to sack him. He was the most illustrious victim of a dramatic rouble collapse.

The currency hit lows of 3,926 to the dollar last Tuesday, compared with levels of around 2,643 at the start of the month. Mr. Gerashchenko admitted he knew no

reason for the fall.

The rouble has since rebounded to 2,996 per dollar although dealers expect the currency to edge down as Russian prices rise.

Mr. Gerashchenko had demonstrated little concern over a series of sharp rouble declines in recent weeks.

Commercial bankers, who said they knew almost nothing about Ms. Paramonova, did not know what impact the new central bank head would have on foreign exchange policy.

Ms. Paramonova was in charge of the central bank's balance sheets and credit policy. She also supervised budget policy.

"She knows the budget very well... at times better than finance ministry people.

This is one of her strongest points," a top central bank official said.

Western economists had long accused the Russian Central Bank of putting a spanner in the delicate works of reform by ranking industrial policy above efforts to rein in inflation.

But central bank interest rates moved higher than inflation this year in line with a promise made to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Mr. Gerashchenko also won praise at a recent IMF meeting for fulfilling central bank obligations to the letter.

Russian commercial bankers said they were bewildered by the appointment. There were lots of names we could have expected, but not her. Nobody would have thought

of that," said Yuri Obolentsev of Mezhekonombank.

"She is the central bank accountant," said one banker who declined to be named.

But a Western economist said Ms. Paramonova's appointment appeared to be good news for Russians wishing to continue efforts to reform the economy. "She is basically pro-market," he said.

A central bank spokesman said Ms. Paramonova graduated from the Plekhanov Academy of the National Economy, a well-known economic institute.

She joined the Russian Central Bank in 1992, the year that Mr. Gerashchenko was appointed to head the institution.

Nigerian government signals no easing of economic controls

LAGOS (R) — The sacking of former World Bank economist Kalu Idika Kalu as Nigeria's finance minister indicates the military rulers do not plan to loosen state control on the ailing economy, economists said Tuesday.

Military ruler, General Sani Abacha, Monday removed Mr. Kalu from his largely civilian cabinet which he formed shortly after seizing power last November.

A short official statement gave no reason for the move, nor did it name a replacement.

Mr. Kalu, a Western-trained economist who worked for the World Bank in Washington for most of the 1970s has been critical of Nigeria's return to economic controls after seven years of pursuing an IMF-backed structural adjustment programme (SAP).

"His sacking indicates that there is a closing of ranks within the (governing) provisional ruling council and the cabinet over the idea that SAP is dead as a dodo," Ashikwe Adione-Egom, an independent economist, told

Reuters.

Finance ministry officials said Mr. Kalu tried in vain to get the government to reverse the decision made in January to fix foreign exchange rates and outlaw the free market. He was also opposed to the artificial pegging of interest rates.

"Kalu's removal indicates that the government does not want to shift its policy," Adekunle Olumide, director-general of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told Reuters.

Mr. Olumide noted the timing of Mr. Kalu's dismissal, announced just as work was beginning on the calendar 1995 budget.

Mr. Kalu told Reuters last month he hoped that economic controls introduced in January would be lifted in the 1995 budget.

"Hopefully, in the context of the next budget we will have the opportunity to review the efficacy of these new controls," Mr. Kalu said during the International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meeting in Malta.

Asked if he wanted the regulations lifted, Mr. Kalu replied: "Definitely. Happily more people are better convinced of that now than they were at the beginning of the year."

Mr. Kalu said economic controls had been instigated partly as a reaction to the mistakes of previous regimes in trying to foster a deregulated economic system.

Since the controls were reintroduced private sector hard currency inflow into Nigeria has virtually dried up.

The dollar exchanges for 22 naira officially compared with 80 naira in the illegal but vibrant free market.

Relying almost totally on earnings from crude oil sales the government has not been able to meet up to five per cent of total foreign exchange demanded from the official market.

Import-dependent local producers, some of whom initially welcomed a fixed exchange regime with its promise of cheaper hard currency, have been crying out for a return to deregulation.

OLD TO NEW!

* DAJANI'S

Gold & Gems Jewellers.

Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Amman.

MALACHITE: Draws out pain. An all-purpose healing stone. Also known as the 'male warrior' stone. Can bring assertiveness and a sense of self.

Top adviser joins Air France

PARIS — The chairman of the Air France Group has announced that Stephen Wolf has agreed to join him in the holding company of the Air France Group, to act as adviser to the chairman.

Mr. Wolf, at present senior adviser with Lazard Freres, has spent his entire career in air transport and has held various executive posts with a large number of major American airlines, including American Airlines, Pan Am and Continental Airlines. After putting Republic Airlines back on an even financial keel, he oversaw its merger with Northwest, then in the same way merged Flying Tiger with Federal Express.

In 1987 he took over as chairman of United Airlines at a time when the company was in serious financial difficulties. He succeeded in turning the airline around by fully restructuring it, until an employee buyout in July 1994.

The appointment of Mr. Wolf to the group is proof of the general management's aim to make Air France the world's leading airline.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Aries Full Moon comes with a double opposition to the Sun and Mercury bringing preoccupation with the past which interfere with one's conscious reasoning process and open-mindedness. Digestive difficulties occur.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find it difficult to express your talents early in the day. Choose your companions wisely so they are compatible to your life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Solve problematic affair at home and then home life will work out to your satisfaction. Apply yourself to any situation so you can be happy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You get letters which are not pleasing in the morning. Strive for a safer way of living so be sure that windows and doors are guarded.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study plans to add to present abundance before making any new investments. Make sure your credit is good and accurately reported.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find it difficult to gain personal wishes in the morning. Get into satisfying social pleasures so you can increase your popularity and happiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't get so involved in small affairs that you may lose out on the overall picture. A conversation with your mate can help you today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact friends who can give you the support and advice for a new venture. Avoid one who is jealous of your success and could cause trouble.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your outside affairs may not be going as you wish in the morning, but after lunch it is possible to make great headway. Rest tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have good ideas but you cannot get them into operation until after lunch. New contacts are better made in the afternoon.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your position before making plans to pay bills. Tonight is fine for romantic pleasures with the one you love, so have a good time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Although you can accomplish much today, you find it rather a slow process which must take time. Listen to fellow associates who know.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a fine talent which needs perfecting now. Later enjoy the pleasure in the company of loved ones and close friends and be happy.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

Peanuts



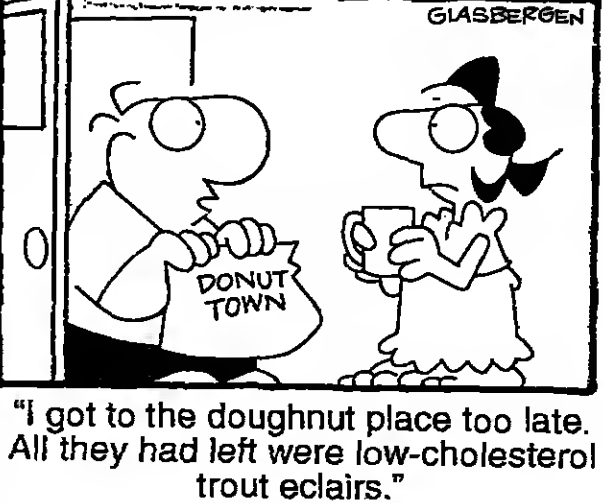
Andy Capp



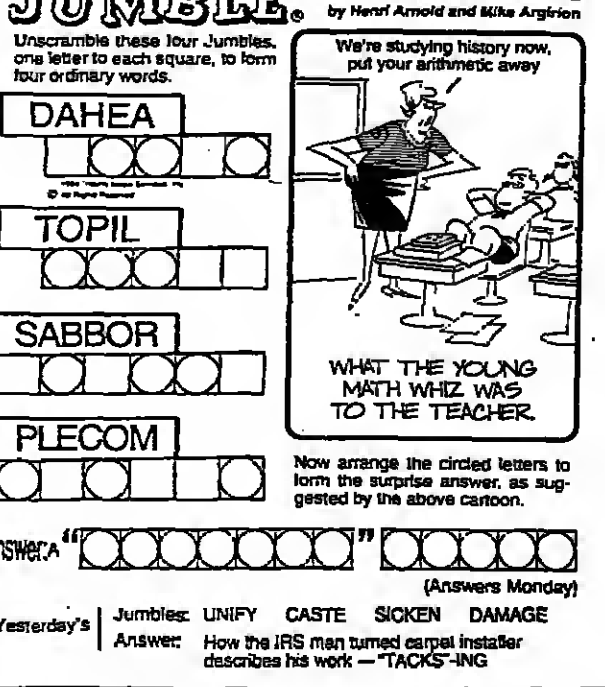
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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6105	1.6082
Deutsche Mark	1.4980	1.5017
Swiss Franc	1.2870	1.2507
French Franc	5.1430	5.1570*
Japanese Yen	97.05	96.05
European Currency Unit	1.2693	1.2677*

(*) For 100 Yen
* European Opening = 8:00 a.m. (EST)

Barometer Interest Rates
Date: 18/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.88	5.31	5.56	5.81
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.66	6.00	6.42
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.95	5.00	5.31
Swiss Franc	3.02	3.43	3.46	3.43
French Franc	5.55	5.45	5.68	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.81	6.06	6.02

Source: bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 18/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1119	1.1175
Deutsche Mark	0.4605	0.4628
Swiss Franc	0.5537	0.5559
French Franc	0.1342	0.1349
Japanese Yen	0.7056	0.7091
Dutch Guilder	0.4111	0.4132
Swedish Krona	0.0450	0.0452
Italian Lira	0.0450	0.0452
Belgian Franc	0.0450	0.0452

Other Currencies
Date: 18/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8230	1.8390
Lebanese Lira	0.040750	0.040800
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1855
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3140	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1839	0.1917
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8050
UAE Dirham	0.1876	0.1895
Greek Drachma	0.2766	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.4530	1.5290

Australian shopping spree pressures rates

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian shoppers are on a buying spree that will add to pressure for an official interest rate hike to rein in one of the industrialised world's fastest-growing economies, analysts said Tuesday.

Economists said official data released Tuesday on the amount of cash flowing through Australian tills in August demonstrated that the country's economy could withstand further monetary tightening.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said the value of retail trade rose 2.1 per cent in August to a seasonally adjusted 9,017 billion Australian dollars (\$6.6 billion) from a revised 8,835 billion dollars in July.

"Ancient reports from the retail industry had earlier characterised the sector as on fire during the month of August," said a report by Bankers Trust Australia.

The report said a big 2.5 per cent increase in retail trade during July would normally be followed by a drop in the following month but "instead, August showed another strong increase."

"We have not seen back-to-back growth figures as large as those in July and August since 1969," it said.

Grant Bailey, chief economist at Citibank Australia, said the retail figures were "very strong" and would pressure the government to rein in its budget deficit and the monetary authorities to raise the official interest rate.

The central Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the official rate by 0.75 percentage points to 5.50 per cent on Aug. 17 following a similar rise by U.S. authorities. Most analysts expect further action in November.

Sanctions boost spare-parts, repair business in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Business is running along nicely in Sheikh Omar Street. Baghdad's miracle-making car repair district.

U.N. sanctions are making life hard for people in Iraq's once-prosperous capital. But more of them are relying on the wizardry of the street's mechanics to fix up broken down and bashed up cars.

"I've got new customers," said Akram Abu Ali, pausing for a moment to hammer a steering rod on an anvil.

"People do not have money to buy new cars or even parts. We are trying to make modifications," he said.

An incessant banging and clanging rings out from the row of open-fronted workshops. The pavement is stained with oil. Engines, batteries and other parts are piled on shelves.

In another workshop, Mohamad Sahib was sewing up worn-out tyres. Some are stitched by machine, others by hand.

"It's not too hard but it needs patience," he said.

A new tyre would cost 50,000-60,000 dinars (\$100-\$150), he said. The patched-up tyre costs 500-600 dinars (about \$1).

"We're busy," he said. Items are getting expensive. In Ayad Shikar's motor supplies shop a man looked wistfully at a bottle of brake fluid then walked away saying he couldn't afford it.

"For me business is better than before. But I feel sorry for those whose cars are buying because of the high prices," Mr. Shikar said. "I wish sanctions were lifted even though my business would lose."

Over a glass of tea he revealed he was a former air force pilot and he reminisced about his former contacts with Britain's Royal Air Force.

"Britain is a great nation. It should not follow America. It is a sad state of affairs," he said.

London and Washington have taken a tough line against Baghdad at the United Nations, which imposed the economic sanctions on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

President Saddam Hussein's government, though complaining about the resulting hardships, has yet to comply fully with U.N. demands made after a multinational force drove Iraqi occupation troops from the emirate in February 1991.

The sleek American limousines cruising Baghdad's streets are as often as not looted from Kuwait during the occupation.

But the decline in the state of the capital's cars is evident, residents say. Many drive around with bashes, dents and cracked windshields which before would be swiftly fixed. Car theft is also on the rise, they say. As the market for second-hand stolen cars is limited, the vehicles are cannibalised for parts.

Back on Sheikh Omar Street, a 14-year-old boy named Ali sifted through a greasy pile of junk. He loaded a battery, sprockets and various other useful-looking bits of metal on to a wooden cart.

He said he could earn 200 - 250 dinars (50 cents) a day reselling them to help his widowed mother and four brothers and sisters through the sanctions.

"I'd love to go back to school," he added.

Kuwait pursues oil expansion projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Kuwait, a key OPEC member, has completed repairs to its war-ravaged oil facilities and brought on stream scores of new wells amid plans to expand its energy sector.

Kuwaiti oil officials said Tuesday.

The emirate, invaded by Iraq in August 1990 and occupied for seven months, now has an output capacity reaching close to 2.5 million barrels per day (b/d) compared with around two million b/d in the year of the invasion.

"The oil sector has been fully rehabilitated and production is in full swing. We now have more than 800 producing wells," said Ahmad Saleh, public relations director at the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation.

Mr. Saleh was speaking at an international oil show in Abu Dhabi, where Kuwait is exhibiting pictures of how its massive oil fields have been brought back to life after being set ablaze by retreating Iraqi forces expelled from the emirate by a U.S.-led coalition in February 1991.

Kuwaiti officials have accused the Iraqis of doing more than 600 wells and damaging the emirate's refineries and petrochemical installations.

Repairs have cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Kuwait drilled only seven oil wells in 1990 because of the Iraqi occupation but the operation has since gained momentum. An official Arab report showed 20 wells were spudded in 1991. 82 in 1992 and 80 in 1993.

Oil industry sources said Kuwait's output capacity would rise to 2.5 million b/d in 1995 and could reach 3.5 million b/d in 2000 if Kuwait presses ahead with multi-billion-dollar expansion projects.

Kuwait produces two million b/d under a production sharing agreement by the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but it has said it would seek a higher quota if OPEC decided to raise its ceiling.

It said its demand was justified by its large production capacity and reserves estimated at 96.5 billion barrels at the end of 1993 compared with around 97.1 billion barrels before Iraq's invasion.

"We introduced the more advanced horizontal drilling technique two years ago and we have achieved very good results," Faruk Hussein of the Kuwaiti oil company said in a paper to the oil conference here which has attracted more than 490 regional and international companies.

He said Kuwait was the last Gulf state to have introduced the technique because most of its fields were highly productive.

"But we had to use such a technique after recovery rates in some fields started to weaken," he added.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman have introduced the horizontal operations, which are costlier than vertical drilling but give nearly four times more yield.

Several papers presented at the oil conference focused on these methods, and equipment used in horizontal drilling was also on display.

Another Kuwaiti official, Rashid Salama, said the emirate was carrying out two major petrochemical projects as part of expansion plans.

The first one involves a \$1 billion petrochemical complex with an annual production capacity of 650,000 tonnes of ethylene, 450,000 tonnes of polyethylene and 350,000 tonnes of ethylglycol.

Mr. Salama of the Kuwaiti Petrochemical Company said the plant was a joint venture between the Kuwaiti government, 45 per cent, the U.S. company Union Carbide, 45 per cent and the private sector, 10 per cent. The complex and another project to produce polypropylene would be completed in 1997.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3535/45	Canadian dollar
	1.5025/35	Deutsche marks
	1.6844/54	Dutch guilders
	1.3492/02	Swiss francs
	30.92/96	Belgian francs
	5.1520/70	French francs
	153.914/4	Italian lire
	98.01/11	Japanese yen
	7.2003/03	Swedish crowns
	6.5475/25	Norwegian crowns
	5.8850/00	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6122/32	
One ounce of gold	\$389.85/390.15	

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Mitsubishi recalls 33,000 cars

TOKYO (AFP) — Mitsubishi Motor Corp. has recalled 33,217 passenger cars to change defective break parts, the transport ministry said Monday.

Ministry officials said the Japanese carmaker reported that it started recalling Mitsubishi and Lancer models manufactured between August 1991 and February 1994.

The officials said the cars' braking system might not work properly as some parts had been wrongly installed.

Brazil's World Cup hangover continues

PARIS (AFP) — Brazil's fourth World Cup triumph in July has left a sad legacy of several tired and disillusioned players whose pride has been bruised as much as their bodies.

For example, goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, one of the stars of the U.S. finals, can't even find gainful employment any more.

So, while he waits for a suitable offer, he's keeping fit by terrorising other members of the goalkeeping fraternity... after swapping his gloves for a No. 9 jersey.

In five matches so far for a small club in rural Reggio Emilia, Taffarel has scored no fewer than eight goals.

Meanwhile, Brazil's exhausted superstar Bebeto, a legitimate striker, returned to his Spanish club Deportivo la Coruna two weeks late and was fined 30 million pesetas (\$235,000) for breach of contract.

But when he pleaded that he had needed the extra 10 days to recover from the World Cup, the club relented, reducing the fine to a token one peseta.

Next, striker Romario, voted best player of the World Cup finals, made his way wearily back to Spanish champions Barcelona... late and also overweight.

Nevertheless, after a period of adjustment he's beginning to reproduce the form that made him top scorer in the Spanish League last season. He scored his first two goals in a recent 4-3 win over Atletico Madrid.

But it's not just the players who have lost their glamour in some quarters.

Brazilian coach Carlos

Alberto Parreira certainly isn't the toast of another Spanish club, Coruna.

They claim he allowed their midfielder Mauro Silva to use anti-inflammatory drugs during the World Cup finals and it has cost them dearly.

Silva is reported to have chronic tendinitis of the left knee and could be sidelined for several months.

Among other Brazilian heroes who are finding it difficult to readjust to the weekly grind of league football are Bayern Munich defender Jorginho and Marcio Santos who has transferred to Florence.

It has also been a sobering experience for Sao Paulo's triumphant trio — Zetti, Cafu and Muller. Elimination from the South American Club Championship has shattered their dreams of winning the Intercontinental Cup, the world club championship, for the third year in a row.

Ironically, a teenager who didn't play in the 1994 World Cup finals is currently outpacing his illustrious compatriots.

Just about the hottest Brazilian property at the moment is 17-year-old Ronaldo who has scored four goals in five matches for PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch Championship.

Even now, Ronaldo is being mentioned in the same breath as the immortal Pele.

Clearly, the grooming process for the 1998 World Cup in France has already begun — but who will caution him about the likely hangover whatever the outcome of Brazil's bid for a fifth title.



Bebeto

Zurich is world's richest athletic meet

LONDON (R) — Zurich will again be the world's richest athletics meeting next year with a total budget of 5.5 million francs (\$4.39 million).

The 15 grand prix meetings will be worth more than \$2.7 million with Zurich the most lucrative and Sao Paulo and Nice bringing up the rear with \$1,000,000 each.

Zurich promoter Res Bruegger Tuesday said he planned to spend \$2.4 million on athletes.

"I think costs have peaked," he said. "The recession is one cause but another is the flood of very good Russian athletes now on the circuit."

Bruegger also hinted that he was prepared to pay less next year for eight times Olympic champion Carl Lewis, who pulled out of this year's meeting with a stomach complaint, has not won a major title since the 1991 world championships.

The full list is: Zurich \$4.39 million, Rome \$2.67 million, Lille \$2.5 million, Lausanne \$2.4 million, Berlin \$2.2 million, Monte Carlo \$2 million, Brussels \$1.8 million, Cologne \$1.6 million, Stockholm \$1.5 million, London \$1.46 million, Oslo \$1.2 million, New York \$1.1 million, San Jose \$1.1 million, Sao Paulo \$1 million, Nice \$1 million.

NHL shows no signs of solving labour dispute

NEW YORK (AP) — Seventeen days and 93 games — and still counting.

The numbers continued to mount Monday in the postponed National Hockey League (NHL) season with seemingly no quick solution in sight to the labour dispute between the league and its players.

"Considering they rejected our last proposal, and their current position, there's not much to talk about," said Bob Goodenow, executive director of the NHL Players Association.

The league has been in a holding pattern since Oct. 1, the original starting date of the season. That was first postponed by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman in hopes of reaching a new collective bargaining agreement with the players by Oct. 15.

The deadline passed, following a rejection of the latest players' proposal by the owners last Tuesday.

Bettman and Goodenow haven't spoken since. NHL spokesman Arthur Pincus said Monday there were no new negotiations planned at this point.

There still was no word whether the 93 postponed games would

be rescheduled and that the entire 84-game schedule can be salvaged. The league hasn't officially cancelled any games, but has announced that a formal policy regarding ticket refunds would be issued Nov. 1 if no contract was reached by then.

Meanwhile, NHL Vice President Brian Burke continued his tour of NHL cities, stopping in Edmonton and Vancouver Monday. Burke has presented the owners' case so fans can draw their own conclusions about the labour dispute that has delayed the 1994-95 season.

In Vancouver, Burke reiterated a position of some in management that NHL owners would be willing to cancel the season if there's no contract agreement.

"I think fans understand that we are faced with a problem," Burke said. "We're available to meet. It's inexcusable to delay bargaining."

In a related development, players continued to explore options in other leagues. Marty McSorley of the Los Angeles Kings had hoped to sign with the Las Vegas Thunder of the International Hockey League.

But late Monday night, his agent, Mike

Barnett, said from Los Angeles that McSorley had decided not to sign with the Thunder because of his involvement in the NHL negotiations. McSorley is on the players' bargaining committee.

"The negotiation committee has his undivided attention," Barnett said.

Several foreign-born players were back in Europe to play during the course of the lock-out.

They included several in the Finnish league — Los Angeles' Jari Kurri and Winnipeg's Teemu Selanne with Jokerit; St. Louis' Esa Tikkanen and Chicago's Christian Ruutu with IFK; Dallas' Jarkko Varvio with HPF and Boston's Mikko Makela with Ilves of Tampere.

During the NHL lock-out, players are allowed to play in Europe and with other non-NHL teams. The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has reversed its ruling not to permit NHL players to perform in Europe. Chairman Rene Fasel made the decision Sunday, after instructions from NHL Commissioner Bettman.

Quebec's Peter Forsberg has gone home to Sweden and is considering playing for Modo.

Wihdat, Hussein to clash in Jordan soccer tourney

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The upcoming eighth week of the first division soccer championship will prove to be one of the most crucial.

With standings somewhat stabilising and only four weeks remaining before the first leg concludes Nov. 11.

Irbid's Al Hassan Stadium will witness the week's most decisive clash between leaders Al Wihdat and second placed Al Hussein Friday. Al Wihdat have won all their matches so far and have 14 points, while Al Hussein lost only to Al Ramtha and are two points behind.

Al Jazireh who have been steadily improving their standing and are currently in fifth place will have a chance to gain more ground when they meet 11th placed Al Jeel who only have one point from one draw and six defeats.

The surprise team of the tournament — sixth placed newcomers Kufroum — will clash with 7th placed Al Arabi as both teams are not only seeking to move away from the last four places but are also contending for a halfway if not advanced standing this season.

The most disappointed fans of eighth-placed Al Ahli and ninth-placed Al

Qadissieh are undoubtedly hoping that their teams start scoring some wins. Al Ahli will clash with 3rd-placed Al Ramtha, while Al Qadissieh will meet last-placed Al Karmel.

Al Ramtha, almost threatened with relegation last year, have displayed remarkable teamwork and have not lost a match so far. They are only one point behind Al Hussein.

Titleholders Al Faisali who are still in fourth place will have a valid chance to improve their standing when they meet 10th-placed Shabab Al Hussein in Amman.

During the past seven weeks 134 goals have been scored in 42 matches. The seventh week had the highest number of goals at 22 and the goal scoring average rose to 3.2 per match.

Al Hussein maintained

the best scoring record 24-9, and Kufroum's Yousef Obeideh is still top scorer with 7 goals. Al Ramtha's Mouassab Hadeib with 6 goals while Al Ahli's Hassan Hammash and Al Arabi's Ayman Al Omari are third place with 5 goals each.

According to figures released by Ma'an Salah, treasurer of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), the seventh week netted JD10,307 with Al Wihdat Kufroum match securing more than half the total at JD6,000 while Al Jeel's Arabi match at Al Mafraq Stadium netted only JD6,000.

Salah added that second division matches supervised by the JSF had netted JD5,225, while unsupervised matches had only JD1,490.

Standings before 8th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	7	7	—	—	10	1	14
Hussein	7	6	—	1	24	9	12
Ramtha	7	4	3	—	15	3	11
Faisali	7	3	3	1	13	4	9
Jazireh	7	4	1	2	10	7	9
Kufroum	7	3	1	3	10	12	7
Arabi	7	2	2	3	10	13	6
Alhi	7	1	2	4	9	14	4
Qadissieh	7	1	1	5	10	19	3
Sh. Al Hussein	7	—	1	6	3	15	1
Jeel	7	—	—	7	2	20	—
Karmel	7	—	—	7	2	20	—

Poison rejected as cause of death of trainer and horses

SYDNEY (R) — Australian scientists rejected Tuesday claims that poison may have caused the deaths of Queensland racehorse trainer Vic Rail and 14 thoroughbreds in September, saying they had identified the killer virus.

"There is no scientific basis whatsoever for any lingering doubts as to the cause of the deaths," said Ian Douglas, principal veterinary officer at the Animal Health Bureau of Queensland's Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Local media reports Monday said a toxic pesticide may have been responsible for the deaths of Rail and his horses.

Rail's vet Peter Reid was reported in the Australian Financial Review newspaper Monday as saying the possibility that toxins, most likely contained in a rodenticide, were responsible was dismissed too readily by authorities. But while DPI scientists

are virtually certain the virus has been contained, they say the explanation for its sudden emergence may never be known.

Douglas said there was no trace of the virus's presence in 900 blood samples taken recently from horses at stables throughout the south-east Queensland region.

"If this is the first case of the virus, then perhaps this is the end of it, although there can be no guarantee until the circumstances behind the outbreak are known that it will not flare again," Douglas said.

He said it was almost certain the virus was introduced into Rail's stable when a mare was returned to the property from a nearby paddock.

"We have not answered the question as to how she came to be infected and we may never find out. It may be that only time will tell

whether those circumstances were unique or could be repeated with another horse," he added.

The virus, related to members of the morbillivirus group, was identified by scientists at the federal government's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, Victoria.

"Whilst many people around the world have been consulted, this investigation has shown that Australia has the capability to quickly and comprehensively handle unusual disease occurrences," said AAHL communications manager Niall Byrne in a statement.

The viral outbreak and deaths led to a shutdown of horse racing in south-east Queensland, costing the local industry an estimated Australian \$5.0 million (\$3.65 million) in wages and lost revenue.

Shooting of soccer official raises fears for World Cup bid

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Armed robbers have killed the visiting chief of Ivory Coast's Soccer Federation, raising fears the shooting could hurt Nigeria's bid to host the 1996 Junior World Cup competition.

Police said Tuesday that Apollinaire Hauhouot, secretary-general of the Ivorian Football Federation, was shot by bandits Saturday in his hotel room near Lagos international airport. No arrests have been made.

Five other hotel guests were attacked, but only Hauhouot was shot, twice in the chest, the police said. He was accompanying an Ivorian team to a regional championship match that

they subsequently lost.

"We were shocked to hear that he was killed in Lagos," Sanli Toro, the secretary-general of Nigeria's Soccer Association, said. "It is a very sad thing, and has implications for how Nigeria is seen from the outside."

This West African nation's bid to host the Junior World Cup already has been marred, as have previous attempts, by poor facilities and preparations. Not one site has been declared ready for the competition.

Nigerian soccer officials said they feared that rising levels of violent crime, and the publicity that Hauhouot's death was attracting, could ruin their chances.

Reason for Chinese success: chicken soup

BEIJING (R) — Chicken soup containing medicinal herbs has been offered as one explanation for the extraordinary success of the Chinese swimmers this year.

"What was the secret of the Chinese swimmers' success at winning 23 out of a possible 31 gold medals at the Hiroshima Asian Games?" the official Beijing Evening News asked Tuesday.

Coach Lu Ynmin has revealed it was chicken soup and hard training.

The paper added the soup, prepared by Lu's wife, contained medicinal herbs.

The Chinese world-breaking performances on both the track and in the pool over the past two years have sparked persistent allegations

These have been denied by Chinese coaches, who have instead attributed their successes to hard work, new training techniques and traditional Chinese medicines.

Ma Junren, who coaches the Chinese world record breaking women middle and long-distance runners, has marketed his own potion of Korean ginseng and turtle blood.

Marathon runner dies

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) — A 42-year-old runner died of an apparent heart attack during the Detroit International Marathon here Sunday. Samuel Grafton of Troy, Michigan, an experienced marathon runner, collapsed after running 22 miles.

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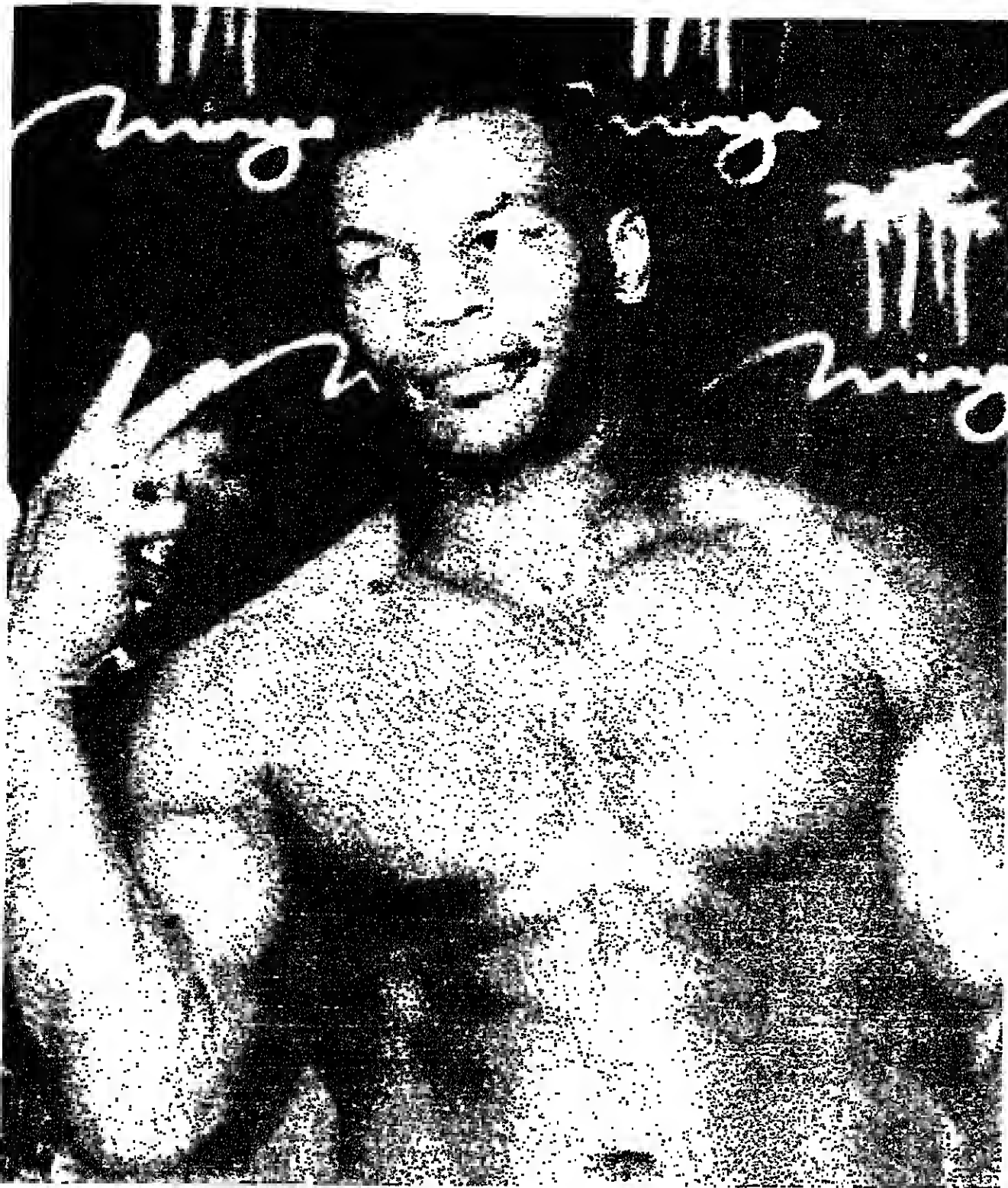
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Mike Tyson

Tyson hates the world, regrets falling in love

NEW YORK (R) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson says he hates the world, is just a "black trophy" for the judge who sent him to prison and his chief regret in life is falling in love.

Ring magazine, in an interview with Tyson last August that was not released until Monday, asked Tyson what his biggest regret was.

"I would have never fallen in love," said Tyson, adding that for him falling in love probably was bad. "I've never been successful in relationships where you really have a deep infatuation for a person."

Tyson, 28, is expected to be released in early May after serving about three years of a six-year term for raping a beauty contestant in Indianapolis, Indiana, in the summer of 1991.

In a wide-ranging interview, Tyson, who said he runs about eight miles (12.8

kilometres) a day and shadow-boxes to stay in condition, was asked to describe his reactions to several people who have been prominent in his life.

About ex-wife Robin Givens, Tyson said: "We weren't ready for marriage, and we got caught up in the whole situation of being who we were... I don't want to be her friend. I don't want to hug and kiss and be cordial with her, but I have nothing bad or good to say about her."

Givens has said that Tyson, the youngest man to win the heavyweight title, beat her.

"I don't beat on women. A woman may say I beat her, but have you ever seen Robin's face caved in? I hit Mitch Green in a street fight, and you saw what happened to his face. Robin never had no bruises."

The former champion said that Don King, who prom-

oted many of Tyson's fights and who is under indictment for insurance fraud, "is a good man. Don King sometimes gets caught up in being so suspicious of everybody. I think that sometimes he even distrusts his friends. ... I don't think he trusts me totally."

Asked if King is paranoid, Tyson said: "Anybody in the boxing business deserved to be paranoid."

Tyson said that before going to prison he thought everyone was nice, but "now, Mike Tyson hates the world. That's just a fact. I hate everybody. I know they say, 'No, you can't hate the world, don't be bitter.' But I just hate everybody. Well, the majority, maybe 99 per cent."

About judge Patricia Gifford, who presided over Tyson's trial and sentenced him, the fighter said: "I think this is her claim to fame. I'm

her famous black trophy. She wants everybody to know she put Mike Tyson in jail."

Tyson said the Islamic religion has "given me a great outlook on life. I have to appreciate where I've been, where I haven't been. I could have been somewhere else worse."

Tyson said that when he first went to jail in March 1992, he told himself that prison was "killing me. I want to see my family. But when it really comes down to it, I really don't have anybody I want to go to. I've been alone all my life and every time I did accept someone in my life, they've (expletive deleted) me."

Asked if King was his surrogate father, Tyson said: "I never had a father. So how's he supposed to be my father? What would I know about a father-son relationship?"

Lalas hailed by Italian press

PADUA, Italy (AP) — Alexi Lalas made history and became the toast of Italians tired of the dominance of AC Milan.

The 24-year-old defender scored the first goal ever by an American-born player in the Italian League as he led underdog Padova to a 2-0 victory over the defending European and Italian champion.

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"Lalas sings the end of an era," chimed in La Gazzetta dello Sport on the same theme.

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Defender Franco Gabrieli added a second goal in the 61st minute to wrap up Padova's first victory after four losses and a tie.

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The win was especially sweet coming against heavily favoured Milan.

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Andretti, Tracy join Newman

Associated Press

MICHAEL Andretti and Paul Tracy officially became teammates Tuesday for Newman-Haas racing on the Indy-car circuit.

In a move that has been the subject of speculation for several months, the 32-year-old Andretti and 25-year-old Tracy replace 54-year-old Mario Andretti, who retired at the end of the 1994 season, and 41-year-old Nigel Mansell, who has returned to Formula One after a two-year Indy-car stint.

It is the younger Andretti's second time driving for co-owners Paul Newman and Carl Haas. He drove for the team from 1989 through Paul Newman and Carl Haas. He drove for the team from 1989 through 1992, winning 20 races and 21 polls and capturing the 1991 PPG Cup championship as his father's teammate.

Tracy, one of budding stars of Indy-car racing, became a test driver and part-time racer for Roger Penske in 1991 after running away with the Firestone Indy Lights Championship the previous year.

Peugeot future with the McLaren under threat

LONDON (R) — French engine suppliers Peugeot's future in Formula One motor racing could be threatened by the revamping of the McLaren team with Mercedes engines next year, according to one of Peugeot's top racing staff.

Jean-Pierre Jabouille, who is in charge of the Peugeot sport team, admitted that he was unsure if Peugeot would remain in Formula One next year.

"Officially," he said, with a shrug, "we will still be with McLaren. Nothing has been said or done to change that yet. I hope we can be. I hope we will at least be in Formula One. But at the moment, I don't know if we will be or not."

According to informed sources close to Mercedes-Benz, the German manufacturer has two options to select from for 1995 and the future: To stay with its current Swiss-based Sauber team, which has not won a race, or to switch to the once-dominant but now declining giant McLaren.

One source at Mercedes said it was virtually certain that Mercedes, who have declared their long-term com-

mitment to Formula One, will change teams next year. McLaren, who signed a long-term deal with Peugeot in October of 1993, are known to be frustrated at the lack of success they have enjoyed with the French V10 power units. They have not won a race this year, but have several strong podium finishes recently.

The sources said Mercedes were also interested in the alternative option of supplying engines to a new Penske-entered American team which would aim to be in full operation for 1996 when current world championship leader Michael Schumacher's contract with Benetton ends.

Both McLaren and Penske, owned by American industrialist Roger Penske whose Indy car team have dominated this year's American series, are heavily sponsored by Marlboro.

It is possible, according to some sources, that Penske, backed by Marlboro, may join with McLaren in creating a new "super team" with Mercedes engines. Marlboro's long-term backing and a probable drivers' line-up including Schumacher and Canadian Indy Car star Paul Tracy in the future.

If Peugeot's partnership with McLaren is to end, the highly-promising Jordan team is favourite to take over as the French company's factory-supplied team. Jordan, in only their fourth season of Grand Prix racing, have impressed many observers and this year have support from Marlboro. A switch from McLaren, whose chief Ron Dennis lost his composure embarrassingly during a media conference in Spain last Saturday, would suit Peugeot if it was to a competitive team.

"I believe we have done a lot of work and made great progress for an engine supplier in their first season," said Jabouille, only hours before Sunday's race when Finland's Mika Hakkinen finished third in a McLaren-Peugeot. "I hope we carry on in Formula One. I believe we can compete with Renault next year when there will be a new engine formula and we can fight for race victories."

If Peugeot are forced to end their partnership with McLaren, the French Larrousse team could also be keen to join them for 1996. If that happened, it would leave Jordan as favourites to succeed Benetton as the official Ford-backed factory team.

San Marino GP in doubt next year

LONDON (R) — The San Marino Grand Prix at Imola in Italy, where Roland Ratzenberger and Ayrton Senna were killed this year, may be omitted from next year's calendar.

According to Formula One team members who have seen the 1995 provisional calendar, the San Marino race was absent from the first draft although a subsequent edition reinstated it with a provisional date.

Motor racing sources suggested the race may be

dropped if the circuit was considered to be responsible for the deaths of Ratzenberger and Senna. A full report on the cause of Senna's death is expected to be announced by the Italian authorities this month.

The provisional calendar also includes an Argentine Grand Prix in March which would be the first race of the season and a free date June 18 which could be designed for a possible U.S. Grand Prix at the Brandy Station Circuit near Washington D.C.

Provisional dates:
March 12 — Argentina (Buenos Aires)
March 26 — Brazil (Sao Paulo)

April 16 — Pacific (Aida)
April 30 — (San Marino)
May 14 — Spain (Barcelona)
May 28 — Monaco
June 11 — Canada (Montreal)

June 18 — (to be announced)
July 2 — France (Magny Cours)
July 16 — Britain (Silverstone)

July 30 — Germany (Hockenheim)
August 13 — Hungary (Budapest)

August 27 — Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps)
September 10 — Italy (Monza)
September 24 — Portugal (Estoril)
October 8 — Europe (Jerez)

October 29 — Japan (Suzuka)
November 12 — Australia (Adelaide)

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J 10 K Q 9
J 8 Q 10 9 7 2
Q J 10 9 2 A 7 6

SOUTH
A 6 5
A 6 4 2
A 3
K 8 4 3

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3 Pass 4 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Experts are unanimous that the best game contract is 3-4 in a trump suit. That offers the most flexibility, enabling ruffs to be taken in either hand without losing control. Yet many declarers are at a loss how to tackle the play when their trump suit contains few high cards. There's an object lesson in winning

technique. North-South were using a 15-17 point range for an opening bid of one no trump. North checked for a 4-4 major-suit fit, then bid game when one was located.

West led the queen of clubs and declarer could count six tricks in the side suite. The trump suit, therefore, had to provide the additional four. If trumps were 4-1, there would be little chance to land the contract, so declarer had to assume a 3-2 break.

Declarer won the first trick with the ace and immediately played ace and another heart. All would have been well had East shifted, but East first drew another trump before reverting to clubs and declarer could manage only nine tricks.

To avoid having too many trumps drawn, declarer should have ducked a trump at trick two. Declarer can then win any return, cash the ace of trumps, leaving two trumps in each hand, then cash all the side-suit winners, before embarking on a crosseruff. East can overruff at any time, but declarer still has 10 tricks. Count them.

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Israel hopes Jordan treaty can ease Golan deadlock

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Tuesday Israel preferred its new treaty with Jordan over its 1979 pact with Egypt as a model for peace with Syria.

The Jordan-Israel peace treaty, initiated in a surprise ceremony in Amman on Monday, has yet to be made public but a senior Israeli official briefed Israeli diplomatic correspondents on its contents late on Monday night.

The accord, Israel's second with an Arab state since its establishment in 1948, rests on five key understandings, sources quoted the official as saying. They are:

— Israel will hand back most of the territory claimed by Jordan, and Amman will accept alternative land to that already farmed by Israelis.

— Israel will lease small areas from Jordan.

— Israel will yield 40 million cubic metres of Yarmuk River water to Jordan annually and provide 10 million cubic metres more through desalination of brackish water sources near the Sea of Galilee.

— Israel will participate in projects that could yield 100 million cubic metres more water, including Israel and Jordan building two dams on the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers.

— Jordan will neither join alliance against Israel nor let its territory be a staging area for third party attacks.

Also under the treaty: — Embassies will be established a month after the treaty is ratified by the Israeli and Jordanian parliaments.

— Israel will consult Jordan before negotiating over Palestinian refugees from the 1948 Middle East war in final talks with Palestinians. Many of the refugees live in Jordan.

Jordan had demanded 380 square kilometres from Israel, most in a long narrow strip along its arid southern border with Israel. The official said Israel conceded it had encroached on Jordanian land in the area over the last 46 years.

The official said Israel agreed to return over 300 square kilometres to Jordan. Jordan agreed to accept 30 square kilometres in exchange and immediately lease back to two Israeli farming communities nearly 300 hectares for 25 years with an option to renew.

In the peace deal with Egypt, Israel gave back all of the Sinai peninsula it seized in the 1967 Middle East war and evacuated settlements established there.

Asked which deal Israel hoped would be a precedent, Mr. Peres told Israeli army

radio: "From our logical viewpoint, the Jordanian agreement. Jordan has not lost even one inch of land... I can say to the Arab World, 'Look, I conducted negotiations, I got all that was coming to me.'"

Syria, its negotiations with Israel stalled, has demanded a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights it lost in 1967. Fifteen thousand Israelis now live on the Heights.

Mr. Peres added the exchange concept was not new to Jordan.

He said King Hussein once told him that a stretch of land on the coast south of the Jordanian port of Aqaba had been obtained by Jordan in a swap with Saudi Arabia.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was in Cairo on Tuesday amid reports of movement after three years of deadlock with Israel over the Golan Heights.

But Mr. Peres said that despite last week's shuttle diplomacy by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, negotiations remained "atmospheric" and were not addressing substance.

Israel has openly agreed to a partial withdrawal but refuses to negotiate in detail until Syria defines whether peace means open borders, full ties and trade.

U.S. continues Gulf deployment as Iraq drops conciliatory tone

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. military deployment in the Gulf has not changed course and continued Tuesday according to original plans, U.S. officials said, even if Iraq clearly is withdrawing its troops from near the Kuwaiti border.

The number of U.S. troops in the region stood at 26,000 as of Tuesday, including 4,400 ground troops, according to Pentagon figures.

The 10 ships that are bringing in material for the mass deployment have not yet arrived in Kuwait, and therefore the departure of 18,000 Marines from Camp Pendleton, California and 16,000 troops from Fort Stewart, Georgia had yet to begin Tuesday.

The United States plans to deploy 30,000 troops on the ground, Defence Secretary William Perry said last week on a visit to the Gulf.

The Iraqi government has said its withdrawal from the border area is complete, but Washington says some troops

still remain. Iraq on Tuesday dropped its conciliatory tone toward a U.N. resolution restricting its troop movements, denouncing the text as "the worst" yet.

On Monday the official daily Al Juhuriya said the resolution had some "relatively positive" points because it omitted a U.S.-backed proposal to ban all Iraqi ground forces from the area near the Kuwaiti border. Instead the resolution banned elite Iraqi Guard units from the area.

But on Tuesday the same newspaper called the text "the worst of resolutions." "To demand that Iraq move northward the military units it deployed in the south constitutes flagrant interference in its domestic affairs," said the newspaper's editor in chief, Salah Al Mukhtar, who also wrote Monday's comment.

It was meanwhile difficult to interpret how close Iraq might be to recognising

Kuwait — a main U.N. demand if the sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion are to be lifted.

A special session of the Iraqi parliament was called on Monday amid speculation recognition was imminent. It was not revealed if this was even discussed.

The body, dominated by the ruling Baath Party, voted to back President Saddam Hussein in his handling of the dispute.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev last week secured a pledge from Baghdad to recognise the oil-rich emirate, which it claims was historically part of its territory, in exchange for a lifting of sanctions after a six-month period of testing the U.N. monitoring of Iraq's arms industry.

Iraq declared in a communiqué on Oct. 13 its "readiness" to recognise Kuwait in exchange for the lifting of sanctions.

But Mr. Kozyrev, visiting Kuwait the next day,

apparently erred by going a step too far and announcing the "good news" that Iraq had already recognised Kuwait and its borders without conditions attached.

Kuwait in turn demanded formal recognition on paper and presented to the United Nations.

Russia proposed to the United Nations in New York on Monday that the Security Council should consider lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports after an arms monitoring test period of six or seven months. But the United States and Britain criticised this.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz reiterated Iraq's position at the United Nations, but gave no clarification of when or how recognition of Kuwait might come, offering only the comment it was "under consideration."

Diplomats said that despite the bluster in Tuesday's official media Baghdad was left holding few cards.

COLUMN

Haitian rights activist wins Reebok Award

BOSTON (R) — Four human rights activists from Haiti, Brazil, Liberia and Nepal were named winners Monday of the 1994 Reebok Human Rights Award for their efforts to promote greater rights and freedoms in their countries. The award was created in 1988 by Reebok International Ltd, the athletic shoe maker to recognise the human rights work of people aged 30 and younger. The award, which provides a \$25,000 donation to a human rights organisation named by each recipient, will be presented to the winners at a ceremony in Boston on Dec. 7. Rose-Anne Auguste, a 30-year-old nurse in Haiti, was named for seeking to promote justice against a background of widespread violence and repression in her country under the military junta, recently forced from power by U.S. pressure.

"She has toiled to improve the chronically insufficient health care available to Haitian women and children in a country which has known extreme human suffering," the Reebok Human Rights board of advisors said in a statement. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a member of the advisory board, praised Auguste's work on behalf of her countrymen as "inspiring." Ms. Auguste founded a private clinic in one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of Port-Au-Prince, offering free health care to anyone who needed medical care but could not afford it. The clinic, which now treats more than 200 people a day, became a haven for many victims of political violence.

Queen's visit causes scramble for tuxedos in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — The visit by Queen Elizabeth II, the first British monarch ever to visit Russia, has sparked a run on evening suits with Russian government officials scrambling for the past two days to find proper attire. Tuxedo stocks at the Russian Foreign Ministry were quickly exhausted and some government officials have been forced to wear mediocre quality formal attire borrowed from a nearby theatre, government authorities said. The queen gave a black-tie reception at the British embassy in Moscow Monday evening after a night at the Bolshoi, and President Boris Yeltsin is scheduled to organise a dinner in honour of the queen Tuesday night at the Palace of Facets, which will be the first black-tie dinner organised by the Kremlin, a presidential protocol official said. And in Moscow, where city clothes are acceptable for most official affairs, tuxedos are hard to come by. Another difficulty with the official Russian tuxedo stocks is that there appear to be too many suits without the shirts, bow ties or accessories which go with them. One vice minister's tuxedo pants would not fit and his secretaries had to sew until late Monday to adjust the size. The secretaries also had to dub up to buy their boss a shirt and bow-tie so he would look decent to meet the queen, one revealed.

British queen visits troubled Bolshoi Ballet

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's world-famous Bolshoi Ballet is going through one of the most troubled periods of its history even as it basks in the glory of performing for Britain's Queen Elizabeth on home soil. As the Queen watched the ballet Giselle Monday evening many in the country's most famous dance troupe were still contemplating a summer marked by bitter internal strife. Critics say standards have slipped at the Bolshoi and that the company is struggling to adjust in the post-Soviet era. A lack of funding and a dearth of choreographic innovation in Russia have hit the country's once pre-eminent dance reputation in recent years. Top dancers have been lured away by lucrative contracts with Western troupes. In September, Mr. Yeltsin issued a decree introducing contracts of employment for all Bolshoi employees.

Hariri sees peace if Israel quits Golan

BUCHAREST (R) — Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said on Tuesday that peace with Israel could be close but only if the Jewish state agrees to withdraw forces from southern Lebanon and end its occupation of the Golan Heights.

Speaking on a visit to Romania a day after Jordan and Israel initiated a peace agreement, Mr. Hariri said bilateral agreements could have "a negative role" without a broader Arab agreement.

But were Israel to withdraw from the key disputed territory, he said, then "peace is very close."

Referring to deadlocked talks between Syria, Lebanon and Israel over the disputed territory, Mr. Hariri said he believed it was now up to Israel to abide by United Nations resolutions.

"We are in negotiations with Israel and also Syria is in negotiations with Israel," Mr. Hariri told a news conference with Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu. "We believe in Lebanon that the ball is in the court of the Israelis."

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon, with more than 30,000 troops stationed in the country, and Beirut is unlikely to act unilaterally in talking with Israel the way Jordan has done over recent months.

Speaking in English, Mr. Hariri said: "We would like to see Israel withdrawing from the Golan Heights and also from South Lebanon. If this happened I think that peace is very close. If not the situation will remain as it is."

On the Jordan-Israel agreement, Mr. Hariri reiterated the view of both the Lebanese and Syrian governments that they would prefer a broader pan-Arab agreement with Israel rather than the piecemeal approach of agreements now between Israel and Egypt, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and now Jordan.

"We always prefer a global and total peace agreement between the Arabs and Israel," he said. "We think this peace agreement (between Israel and Jordan) might play a negative role if it is not completed with the rest of the Arab World."

Meanwhile the media in Lebanon was divided in its reaction to the treaty.

"What happened between Jordan and Israel is the most important achievement to building confidence between Israel and Syria," the Al Nahar newspaper said.

It "could be an indication of the possibility to announce a declaration of principles on the Syrian track," Al Nahar said. But the leftist Al Safir daily denounced the treaty and said it would hurt the positions of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon which still have a lot to negotiate with Israel.

Denmark pledges assistance to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Denmark's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Henrik Wohlf on Tuesday welcomed the initialising of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, and described it as an important step on the path towards a comprehensive peace in the region.

Addressing a press conference at the end of a four-day official visit to Jordan, the Danish minister described the treaty as a "historic event," which will push forward peace talks on the Israeli-Syrian track and other tracks. The treaty will encourage the industrialised countries to support this region and help it ensure economic development, he said.

His talks with Jordanian officials, the minister said, were extremely positive, and had focussed on Jordanian-Danish cooperation.

He disclosed his country's plans to enhance its participation in the economic development in both Jordan and Palestine.

Mr. Wohlf arrived here Sunday at the head of a Danish business delegation, which held meetings with Jordanian businessmen on means of developing cooperation in the economic and commercial field.

Speaking at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali earlier Tuesday, Mr. Wohlf said that Denmark was ready to provide Jordan with assistance to ensure its economic and social development and to regard Jordan as a regional centre for Danish investments in the whole region.

Mr. Wohlf said Denmark was willing to offer Jordan technical assistance in vocational training as well as promote the Kingdom's private sector's endeavours in its drive to boost commercial exchanges with other countries in general and with Denmark in particular.

The prime minister briefed the Danish officials on the peace process and the initialising Monday of the draft peace treaty with Israel. Dr. Majali expressed hope that the move would improve the economic situation in Jordan and open the door for investments.

Mr. Wohlf also met Nayef Mwala, secretary general of the Ministry of Information, to review Jordanian-Danish relations and to discuss prospects for exchanges of information and expertise in media affairs between Jordan and Denmark.

Syria's last Jews have no plan to leave

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A key representative of Syria's Jewish community has denied reports that the last Jews living in Syria were planning to leave the country. The Al Hayat newspaper reported on Tuesday.

"President Hafez Al Assad told us 'we welcome he who wants to stay in his country and we tell him ahlan wa sahlan (welcome) but to he who wants to leave we say peace be with you,'" Yusef Jajati told Al Hayat from Damascus.

"Yesterday I prayed with my brothers in the synagogue and I did not hear one of them say that he was planning to travel abroad except for six who left (on Sunday)," he said.

Mr. Jajati said 400 Jews remained in Syria out of 3,400 after Syria allowed them to leave the country freely in 1992.

All those who remain in Syria have received exit visas and "are free to travel and practice their religion in Damascus at four synagogues out of an initial 22," he said.

Around 100 Jews also pray at a synagogue in Kamishli, near the border with Turkey.

Mr. Jajati told the London-based Arabic daily.

Two other synagogues in Aleppo were closed after the departure of Jews from the city north of Damascus.

Mr. Jajati, a wealthy shopkeeper, has been the key Jewish representative in Syria since the departure to the United States of Rabbi Hamra.

Diplomatic sources on Monday said the last Jews still living in Syria were due to quit the country for good on Tuesday after secret talks mediated by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was last week in the region.

"Christopher cannot force me to leave the country and our government is not throwing us out. On the contrary it welcomes us," Mr. Jajati told Al Hayat.

Rabbi Hamra planned to immigrate to Israel on Tuesday, coming from the United States after the departure from Syria of the last members of the Jewish community who wanted to leave.

Asked whether his arrival was a sign of a further thaw in Israeli-Syrian relations, Rabbi Hamra said: "Yes, this is a

PLO to bar hardliners as candidates in elections

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has agreed in the wake of the Israeli hostage crisis that hardliners opposed to peace be barred from standing in self-rule elections, a Palestinian delegate to talks here said Tuesday.

The PLO had previously objected to Israeli conditions that opponents of peace, such as the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, be excluded from the election process.

"All candidates must be mandated to continue the talks to reach the final phase of Palestinian autonomy," negotiator Zuhair Kamal told AFP. "The candidates must recognise the peace process."

"Whether Hamas accepts this or not, is its problem," she added. She spoke before a new session of talks with Israel on staging elections to the authority which will run Palestinian civil affairs under the autonomy agreement.

Israel suspended the talks on the orders of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a week ago after Hamas kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

The crisis ended in a failed rescue attempt which left the hostage, an Israeli officer and three Hamas men dead.

Her comments marked a climb-down for the Palestinian delegation which last week slammed the head of the Israeli delegation, Danny Rothchild, for being "undemocratic" in setting conditions for those who could take part in the elections.

Israel wants to exclude opponents of the peace process, those who call for the destruction of the Jewish state, and those standing on a racist platform.

Mr. Rabin warned PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat after the hostage crisis that he could no longer court Hamas, which is vehemently opposed to self-rule launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on May 4.

"Arafat cannot have in the same time peace with Israel and peace with Hamas," he said.

In another conciliatory gesture, Mr. Kamal said the PLO would also agree conditionally to Israel taking part in a committee to supervise the elections.

"We refuse a joint supervision committee with Israel, but we accept international supervision within which the Jewish state could be represented."

Last week the head of the PLO delegation, Saeb Erekat, rejected as "illogical" an

Israeli proposal to create a joint committee of three Palestinian judges and three Israelis.

Under the terms of the declaration of principles the two sides are to agree on supervision and an international observation for the vote.

The new round of talks started later Tuesday in a Cairo hotel and would focus on the structure of the future council as well as the makeup and mandate of a supervisory committee.

So far the two sides have failed to set a date for the poll, which has already been delayed from July, and which the Palestinians had been hoping to schedule for early November.

The PLO is insisting Israel should complete its military withdrawal from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank before the elections are held, which Israel has so far refused to discuss.

The talks which began on Oct. 3 are meant to set the seal on limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza before the start of negotiations on the final status of the territories due to begin in May 1996.

The chief negotiators, Dr. Erekat and Major General Rothchild, would not discuss details of their negotiating strategies as they arrived at a Cairo hotel for the talks.

But PLO delegate Mobammad Shitayeh said he expected both sides to raise new ideas to break the logjam over Palestinian elections.

The Israeli cabinet decided on Sunday to resume the talks after the crisis over the abduction of Nachshon Waxman ended with his death when Israeli soldiers tried to free him from his abductors.

Israel had charged Waxman was held in the Palestinian autonomous zone in the Gaza Strip and demanded the PLO rescue him. But it turned out the soldier was held in an area of the West Bank still occupied by Israel.

The talks, aimed at hammering out a mechanism for the elections, have made little progress since they were launched here early this month.

The two sides have differed on the powers of the council, its make-up and the procedures for its election.

Mr. Shitayeh, a Jerusalem-based economist, said the PLO still rejects Israel's demand for a joint Israeli-Palestinian body to oversee the elections, which he described as "completely illogical."

81 Hamas members still in jail in Gaza

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian authorities were only holding 81 Hamas members in Gaza jail arrested over the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, the city's police chief said Tuesday.

General Ghazi Jabali said 51 were released overnight and 61 the previous day.

But Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas members said 115 activists had been freed in the last two days out of a total of 350 held since last Wednesday.

The releases followed demonstrations by thousands of Hamas supporters, protesting a crackdown ordered by Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chief Yasser Arafat after the group kidnapped Israeli corporal Nachshon Waxman.

The demonstrators had also demanded the dismissal of Mr. Arafat's top police brass.

Also released were six local journalists working for international agencies who had handled a video recording of the Hamas kidnappers.

The authority also set free on Tuesday 11 members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine detained three weeks ago.

They were held after the group, which opposes autonomy, claimed responsibility for shooting at Israeli troops.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian authority issued an appeal to citizens to beware of "hidden hands attempting to sow division."

"We call on our Palestinian people to maintain national unity and to close ranks in the face of challenges by the enemy of the people," said a notice by the Interior Ministry, Public Affairs Office, in the Jerusalem newspaper Al Nahar.

Another fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, has urged Palestinian police to disobey orders and cooperate with Hamas.

Reuters television cameraman Shams Oudeh, soundman Sawah Abu Seif, stills photographer Ahmad Jadalal and print reporter Taher Shritah were questioned last Wednesday about two video tapes Reuters issued in connection with the kidnapping.